

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Editorial and Executive Office: 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

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How to Come to Jesus

A SHORT, SIMPLE SERMON ON SALVATION, FROM A GREAT TEXT

By Editor John R. Rice

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."—John 6:37.

Anybody in the world who wants to be saved may be saved right now, as you read this article. I mean the worst drunkard, the most abandoned woman, or even the person who is most ignorant of God and the Bible, can be saved now and know it, beyond the peradventure of a doubt, just by taking to heart the Scripture given above, which we will explain.

And now let us read it again, because all I say is simply going to be an explanation and illustration of this plain statement which Jesus Christ made in John, chapter 6, verse 37.

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."—John 6:37.

Here Jesus tells us that God the Father gives certain people to Him, Jesus. And everyone that comes to Jesus He receives and will not, under any circumstances, turn down, reject, or cast out! So I will show you plainly, from the Word of God, that you who read today may come to Jesus Christ and be saved, and He will not ask you to wait, nor refuse you, but will immediately take you into His heart and into His blessed kingdom and make you God's child, forgiving all your sins!

I hope you will memorize this verse, John 6:37, because it is one of the sweetest and best in the Bible, and one of the best for winning souls.

There are two parts to this verse as you will see. Will you please consider the first part:

I. "All That the Father Giveth Me Shall Come to Me"

Here we learn that God gives certain people to Jesus.

That does not mean, of course, that anybody in the world is left out of God's plan. No, no! Many, many Scriptures make it clear that anybody who wants to be saved can be saved.

For example, II Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." God wants ALL to come to repentance.

Again, the same blessed promise is given in Revelation 22:17. There the Lord Jesus told John to put this last sweet salvation promise in the Bible: "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Blessed be God, "whosoever will" may "take the water of life freely." So nobody is left out.

And we know from I John 2:1, 2,

that Jesus Christ has paid on the cross for the sins of the whole world. There the Scripture says, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world." So any poor sinner in the world may know that Christ is the propitiation for his sins. He may be saved. Yes, he is invited and urged to be saved. No one is left out.

But it is true that this short sermon is not dealing with everybody, but just with you who are reading it now. And this blessed verse is a specially sweet promise to certain people because God the Father has given them to Jesus Christ, in some special way, or dealt with them in some special

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It wasn't the first time, either, but the other day visiting in a Christian home, the lady said, "You know, there are a lot of people in this town who think you and F. L. (a fellow preacher) are as crazy as can be!"

Yes, they say I'm crazy! In one place where we were doing home missionary work, the townspeople where we made our headquarters because our work was different, began to believe we were spies. A crystal set hobby I practiced in the attic of our home was a short wave transmitter and I was sending secret messages to Germany! A paper fire in our furnace was secret documents I burned to destroy evidence now that they were "getting on to us"! And when we put the curtains down in our front room while playing games with one another (so people wouldn't think we were playing cards!) we found out afterwards they thought

we were having secret meetings! They had the constable out investigating us!

They say I'm crazy!

While in Bible school, on a choir tour, young people several times asked us, and asked me many times since, "Listen, you don't drink, smoke, gamble, dance, play cards or go to the movies—what do you do, anyway?" AS IF THOSE WERE THE THINGS THAT GAVE REAL JOY AND PEACE! AS IF THAT WAS "LIVING"!

Now, I don't believe religion is a negative thing; Christianity is not a series of "don'ts"—I've never "done" so much in my life as I have since I've been in the ministry! Hardly a night comes along that I can have alone with my family, or can relax and read—it is a constant doing, but there are some "don'ts" in my life now, too! I DON'T DO A LOT OF THINGS I USED TO DO—NOT BECAUSE I CAN'T BUT BECAUSE I WON'T!

The facts of the matter are, I CAN SMOKE ALL I WANT, AND I DO, I CAN DRINK ALL I

PLEASE, AND I DO! I GAMBLE ALL I CARE TO! I ATTEND AS MANY HOLLYWOOD SHOWS AS I DESIRE TO SEE! I DANCE EVERYTIME I FEEL LIKE IT! I ATTEND EVERY LODGE I CAN CONSCIENTIOUSLY ATTEND! But, the secret of it all

(Continued on page 7)



Evangelist Wilfrid Meloon

The Power of Prayer

By Dr. R. A. Torrey

as Preached in the Church of the Open Door, Los Angeles
1923

"... Ye have not, because ye ask not."—James 4:2.

I bring you a message from God contained in seven short words. Six of the seven words are monosyllables, and the remaining word has but two syllables and is one of the most familiar and most easily understood words in the English language. Yet there is so much in these seven, short, simple words that they have transformed many a life and brought many an inefficient worker into a place of great power.

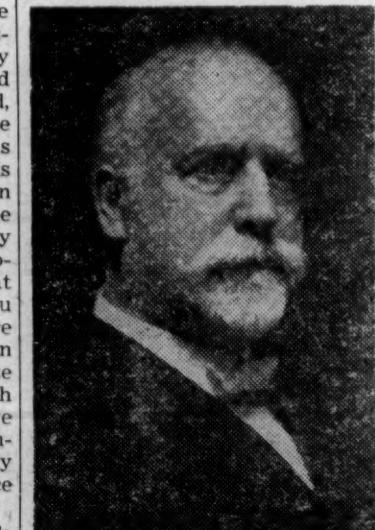
I spoke on these seven words some years ago at a Bible conference in central New York. Some months after the conference I received a letter from the man who had presided at the conference, one of the best known ministers of the Gospel in America. He wrote me, "I have been unable to get away from the seven words upon which you spoke at Lake Keuka, they have been with me day and night. They have transformed my ideas, transformed my methods, transformed my life, and I think I have a right to add, transformed my ministry." The man who wrote those words has since been the pastor of what is probably the most widely known of any evangelical church in the world. I trust that the words may sink into some of your hearts today as they did into his on that occasion, and that some of you will be able to say in future months and years, "I have been unable to get away from those seven words, they have been with me day and night. They have transformed my ideas, transformed my methods, transformed my life, and transformed my service for God."

You will find these seven words in James 4:2, the seven closing

words of the verse, "Ye have not, BECAUSE YE ASK NOT."

These seven words contain the secret of the poverty and powerlessness of the average Christian, of the average minister, and of the average church. "Why is it," many

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Dr. R. A. Torrey

FREE

For a limited time we are giving Spurgeon's Sermons... Memorial Library absolutely free with 30 subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD at \$2.50 each. See details about how to get this 20 volume set worth \$59 on page 5.

Hey! Young People! THEY SAY I AM CRAZY! *A Sermon to Young People*

By Evangelist Wilfrid Meloon



P. O. Box 73, Harmony, Maine

we were having secret meetings! They had the constable out investigating us!

They say I'm crazy!

While in Bible school, on a choir tour, young people several times asked us, and asked me many times since, "Listen, you don't drink, smoke, gamble, dance, play cards or go to the movies—what do you do, anyway?" AS IF THOSE WERE THE THINGS THAT GAVE REAL JOY AND PEACE! AS IF THAT WAS "LIVING"!

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New Plan for SWORD BOOK CLUB

By the Editor

**Best Books Still Selected by Famous Christian Leaders.
Save 15% or More. No Automatic Shipments, No Books You Do Not Order, No Credit, No Free Books, Just Cash Savings on Orders of Regular Sword Book Club Members**

The Sword Book Club has had some wonderful results. Many friends, sometimes as high as 5,000 of them, members of the Sword Book Club have gotten the best books available selected for them and recommended by our famous Christian judges. The Sword Book Club judges at present are these: Dr. V. Raymond Edman, president of Wheaton College; Dr. Bob Jones, Jr., president of Bob Jones University; Dr. Lee Roberson, president Tennessee Temple Schools, pastor of famous Highland Park Baptist Church; Dr. John L. Hill, Southern Baptist book editor and distinguished leader; Dr. T. Roland Philips, pastor Arlington Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Maryland; Evangelist Bill Rice, Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and this editor.

We have given away to Sword Book Club members thousands of copies of good books—one a premium for joining, and one with every four books purchased through the Book Club. Many, many people say how glad they are that they have had the privileges of the Sword Book Club, buying only good books carefully selected and recommended, buy-

ing only books that they wanted, and getting many of the best books free.

However, there are some serious difficulties with the present plan of the Book Club. For one thing, we have lost money almost every year. Many Christians of very limited means, young people with-

(Continued on page 4)

THE EDITOR'S Notes

by John R. Rice

Eight Days at Decatur, Alabama

January 22 to 29 I had eight happy days in Decatur, Alabama, in special revival services at Fairview Baptist Church. Actually the services were sponsored by three churches—Fairview Baptist Church, Rev. Covell Keenum, pastor; Grace Baptist Church, Dr. Monroe Parker, pastor; and Moulton Heights Baptist Church, Rev. Tom Freaney, pastor. All three churches dismissed all the other conflicting services, except Sunday School and morning preaching service. Every evening the house was full with chairs in the aisles. The fellowship was wonderfully sweet.

There were somewhere between 20 and 30 professions of faith. A good many Christians openly rededicated their homes to God starting family altars. Some Christians began active soul-winning work. There were many spiritual victories manifested.

Two of these churches belong to the Conservative Baptist Association and one of them belongs to the Southern Baptist Convention. They are of like precious faith, and the fellowship was wonderful.

We were happy to meet many ministers. One night there were 22 ministers present. Almost every night preachers were present from as far away as 50 miles. One night a delegation came from Tupelo, Mississippi.

\$8,369.65 Worth of Books Given Free to Bona Fide Ministerial Students in Actual Training

It has been our joy, in the last two months, approximately, to give away, to ministerial students in actual training now, students who promised to read soon books from a carefully selected list, books worth \$8,369.65. We have many, many glowing letters from these ministerial students already.

We have received, to apply on these books, some \$4,072.78.

We have laid this matter out before the Lord. We are acting on His plain promise, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom."

For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38), and "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (II Cor. 9:6). God is faithful and we are deeply grateful to everyone who has helped us in this matter. God is faithful who will continue to provide, we feel sure. We simply suggest that those who are in-

Temple Tour to Bible Lands

Limited to thirty passengers, *The Temple Tour to Bible Lands* (July 13 through August 16) to be directed by Dr. George A. E. Salstrand of Temple Schools in Chattanooga, Tennessee, is rapidly being filled.

This unique thirty-five day tour by air and motor coach which visits London, Paris, Rome, Cairo, Beirut, Damascus, Amman, Jerusalem (six days), Haifa, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Tel Aviv, Athens, and Corinth, will come to a glorious climax in Switzerland where Reformation history was made. Anyone wishing a folder describing this tour which visits the historic places and sacred sites of Europe and the Middle East may secure it by writing Dr. George A. E. Salstrand, care of Tennessee Temple Schools, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Interested pray about it and God will make His will clear.

Annual Report on Sword Pleasing; Still Behind on Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund

We have recently had a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sword of the Lord Foundation. There were many encouraging things about the report for the year 1955 as well as some very difficult problems.

The annual report showed that we would have gained some \$1,400 in assets during the last year if we had in hand money to pay up all of our Minister and Missionary subscriptions charged to the Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund. However, until several thousands of dollars are paid up in this Fund we show a loss for 1955.

Yesterday we had a most heart-warming letter from a missionary on the west coast of Africa who had no way to pay for a subscription and who was thanking God, that when his subscription, paid for by a relative, expired, and when he could not renew, THE SWORD was sent him through our Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund. He said, "How shall they hear without a preacher" applies to the missionary as well as to the heathen. And how hungry hearted are these missionaries!

We have just received also a list of native pastors in the Philippine Islands. American missionaries earnestly besought us to send THE SWORD to these national pastors who read English, and who so seriously need the doctrine and inspiration and help on understanding the Bible which THE SWORD brings. We are putting them on to receive THE SWORD OF THE LORD through the Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund (Continued bottom next column)

From the new book, by this militant, evangelical Methodist minister of more than 55 years, 33 of them at Trinity Methodist, Los Angeles.



Bob Shuler Met These On the Trail

Bishop James Cannon, Jr.

He loved the mud and blood of battle.

The first time I saw Bishop James Cannon, Jr., he was not a bishop, and the entire college of bishops was trying to see to it that he never became one. It was in the General Conference at Atlanta, Georgia. I was new in such matters, but I soon learned that the bishops themselves felt called of God to protect their office from objectionable personalities. Jim Cannon was that.

I discovered that the then Dr. Cannon had openly, positively, and even vigorously opposed certain bishops, and had, in a previous General Conference, all but defied their wishes. Nor was there hope of his ever reforming. His convictions ran riot. When he believed a thing, he failed to even be discreet in advocating it. The bishops openly stated that he would be a fly in the Episcopal ointment and a worm eating in their souls. Possibly I was too young to think straight, but I was wild from the first over Jim Cannon.

Never shall I forget the parliamentary tactics by which, in the final balloting of that General Conference, a last effort was made to keep Cannon out of the Episcopal office. I recall that I, with the others, stayed up all night in our effort to counteract that piece of Episcopal "skulduggery," for it was nothing less. In the morning we took the ballot and Dr. Cannon was elected.

Bishop "Jim" Cannon never fitted in. He was made not to fit. The office cures most Methodist preachers. It failed on Cannon.

From the beginning of his ministry, James Cannon, Jr., had been a hated and hounded foe of the liquor traffic. Long before the Methodist church had discovered the effectiveness of his generalship, the liquor people had his number. They dreaded him. William Randolph Hearst, who hated him soundly, declared in a letter to the managing editor of the *Los Angeles Examiner* that Cannon had the "greatest brain in America." The liquor people sadly assented.

Possibly to keep him out of more conspicuous positions in the College of Bishops, Cannon had been placed on the Temperance Committee, and became chairman. Then came the Presidential election of 1928, when Al Smith of New York was nominated in the Houston convention and led off by promising the American people what Franklin Roosevelt four years later gave them—liquor.

The solid South held the balance of power in that election, and "Jim" Cannon rolled up his sleeves and undertook as impossible a thing as mortal man has undertaken—the division of the solid South and the taking from the Democrats enough southern states to swell the Republican electoral vote to a majority. When the smoke cleared, he had done it.

History will recount that Bishop James Cannon, Jr., though not a military strategist, accomplished as great a "coup" in that election as ever Napoleon dreamed of, or Stalin put over in Stalingrad.

But he came from that fight with the blood and mud of battle on his garments. He had never been an acceptable bishop. Certainly, this warrior looked everything other than a bishop as he came back to the General Conference with the scalp of the liquor traffic hanging to his belt. He had not only split the Southern Democrats but he had split the Southern Methodists. Thousands of Southern Methodists would have joined the Baptists but for the fact that the Baptists were more enthusiastic over Cannon than was his own gang.

The following General Conference saw Hell rise up and Heaven pulled down in an effort to "shove" Cannon. He came out with bloody head unbowed.

Four years passed and Providence seemed friendly to the college of bishops. Bishop Cannon had contracted tropical fever in Africa and now he was a cripple for the rest of his life. Pressure was brought on the Committee on Episcopacy and a report was brought in recommending his retirement. Again I stayed up all night. Nathan Newby and I knocked on men's doors at midnight. We were closeted in the bishop's room at 2:00 a. m. The bishop was deeply hurt. The Conference met at 9 o'clock and the fight was on.

I have been privileged to lead several battles but never one that I gave myself to as that one. As the old negro preacher said in the "experience meeting," "Physically, I was a moral wreck," when that day ended. But, thank God, "Jim" Cannon was still on the active roll as a bishop of the Southern Methodist church.

I saw him in Chicago some time ago. It took two canes, a crutch, and a friend to help him navigate. From his knees down, he was done. But from his neck up, he was still, in my opinion, the smartest bishop in the Methodist church on the American continent.

(Get this book, *BOB SHULER MET THESE ON THE TRAIL*, 42 fascinating character sketches, 185 pages, hard binding, \$2.25. Other books by Shuler: *WHAT NEW DOCTRINE IS THIS?* (\$2) and *SOME DOGS I HAVE KNOWN* (\$2). At your local Christian bookstore or add 5% (minimum 15¢) for postage and handling and order direct from Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois.)

Fund, but we need immediately about \$160 to pay for those subscriptions.

We believe that here is one of the greatest missionary opportunities of modern times. I personally felt convinced that I ought to give very heavily at this time to the Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund and I know that God will put it on the hearts of others to do the same thing.

For such gifts please address your letter to the Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois, and say plainly whether the money is to be used to send books to ministerial students, at home or abroad,

or whether it is to be used for the Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund.

For Your Young People, a Special Treat!

In this issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD you will find a remarkable article by Rev. W. C. McLean on "Hey Young People, They Say I Am Crazy." I believe that pastors would do well to order enough copies of THE SWORD OF THE LORD to see that each of his young people get this particular article. It will do much to settle for young people the questions of the dance, Hollywood

Youth's Corner

The Editor Answers
Young People's
Questions

What are the "second blessing" and the "second work of grace"?

The terms "the second blessing" and "the second work of grace" are used by Nazarenes and Holiness people, Free Methodists, Salvation Army members and others who believe in what they call entire sanctification. They believe that after salvation a second miraculous work may take place in the heart whereby one is freed from the carnal nature, freed from sin and given Christian perfection. I do not believe that is taught in the Scriptures.

However, I believe that one can have many, many blessings after salvation. I feel that one may be filled with the Spirit and given soul-winning power any time he needs this power of the Holy Spirit. I believe one may have light on the Word of God to understand it better. One may have comfort in sorrow. There are many, many blessings for a Christian after salvation, but I do not like to call them a second blessing. And I do not believe that God ever makes people sinlessly perfect in this life, and I do not think that the carnal nature is ever eradicated until one goes to meet Jesus.

How can I have assurance that I am saved?

You can know that you are a Christian, not by how you feel, for that varies, but by simply taking God's Word for it. Did you trust in Christ? If so, then you have His word for it that you have passed from death into life and are God's child. Read over John 1:12, John 3:36, John 5:24, John 6:37 and John 6:47 and see how positively the Lord states that you are saved and have everlasting life if you trusted in Christ.

The reason you do not feel right is probably because you are not doing as much for the Lord as you ought. Remember that the Lord did not promise that people would feel just such and such a way because they were saved. Salvation is one thing, settled by faith in Christ. Joy and happiness depend on how you live. Apply the same thing to married life and you will see. One can be married without being happy, but married people have a right to be happy. So with the Christian.

movies, cigarettes, drink and lodges.

Another suggestion; why not order enough copies of one issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD so that all the young people could use it in a party and work together on the crossword puzzle in that issue?

Perhaps you could kill two birds with one stone by ordering extra copies of this paper. We are printing extra copies for your use. Please enclose 5¢ per copy for those you order.

Correspondent George Burnham Reports Billy Graham's World Tour for SWORD

We are so happy to have the editor's friend, George Burnham of Chattanooga, reporting Billy Graham's world tour. He is a staff writer for the Chattanooga Free Press, and these reports are sent to many daily newspapers through the Chattanooga Free Press. THE SWORD OF THE LORD has been graciously included. You will enjoy the Billy Graham report in this issue. George Burnham is a good Christian with a burning heart for revival.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION

Every product and service advertised in THE SWORD OF THE LORD is investigated and approved.

You may buy with confidence!

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Baptist and Unitarian Pastors Buddies

A Southern Baptist pastor in Maryland who says that most of the Baptist pastors in the state are not liberal, yet is shocked at a report in the *Baltimore Evening Sun* for December 7, 1955, page 10, sends us the clipping. Here is the news item:

The Rev. Leland Higginbotham, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Hightstown, N. J., will be installed as pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church of Towson at 8 P. M. tomorrow. A reception will follow in the church sanctuary.

The Rev. Dr. Vernon B. Richardson, pastor of the University Baptist Church, will deliver the sermon. The Rev. Dr. John Henry Day, a former guest pastor, will bring the charge to the church.

The Rev. D. E. F. Campbell, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Va., where the Rev. Mr. Higginbotham was ordained, will deliver the prayer of installation.

"Others who will participate in the service will be the Rev. Dr. W. C. Roberts, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, the Rev. G. W. Galloway, minister, Towson Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Lewis F. Ranson, minister of the Towson Methodist Church, the Rev. Dr. C. C. Thomas, Baptist State General Secretary, the Rev. Cline L. Vice, president of the Maryland Baptist Union Association; William M. Patterson, moderator, Baltimore Baptist Association; and Mrs. G. Winston Pearce, president, Maryland State Women's Missionary Union.

The Rev. Straughan Lowe Gettier, minister of the Unitarian Church at Princeton, N. J., will deliver the charge to the minister.

The Editor Comments

We do not wonder that the Southern Baptist pastor is shocked, particularly that a Unitarian minister should be selected to give the charge to the pastor at the installation services. The Unitarian church is founded on the basis that Jesus Christ is not God. New Testament Christianity is based upon the doctrine of the Trinity, one God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But Unitarians deny the Christian position. They believe that there is a God, but not necessarily the God of the Bible. They believe that Jesus was a good man, but that He was not God. They do not worship Him; they do not pray in His name. Unitarian churches are not Christian churches. A Unitarian pastor is not himself a Christian and does not believe that Jesus is what He claimed to be. A Unitarian pastor has never trusted in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, and never preaches it. How can any self-respecting pastor invite a Unitarian to give the charge in his installation service? And what could a Unitarian pastor say, that would be helpful, when he denies every fundamental of the Christian faith?

Do not think I am slandering Unitarians. The First Unitarian Church had a Christmas advertisement in the Louisville, Kentucky, *Courier-Journal*, Saturday morning, December 24th, saying:

CHRISTMAS FOR ITS OWN SAKE

"Christmas is fun, if you will make it so. It always was. It doesn't have to have a savior. It doesn't have to have a Santa Claus. These are just lovely stories we all enjoy. We really like Christmas for its own sake. It didn't begin with Santa Claus and it didn't begin with the birth of Jesus. It doesn't depend on them for its meaning, but they make it richer for us . . ."

Notice that the ad spells "Savior" with a small "s." All Unitarians flatly deny the deity of Christ, say that stories about the birth of Christ are no more real than the legends of Santa Claus, say that Jesus is not a Saviour. And now a Baptist pastor has an infidel Unitarian giving him the charge to the duties and responsibilities of a preacher of the Gospel!

The Bible gives very clear instructions about the matter of associating with unbelievers, infidels like every Unitarian pastor. The Scripture says,

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."—II Cor. 6:14-18.

Again in II John 7:11 we read the plain command:

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

No Christian has a right to appear on the same religious program with an infidel and recognize the infidel as a Christian. To receive such a person is forbidden. To bid him "God speed" is forbidden. To hear such a man preach as if he were God's man; to support him with money; to regard him as a Christian and give him the hand of fellowship is a sin, plainly forbidden in the Bible!

It was about people like this that Paul commanded, Let him be damned! In Galatians 1:8, 9, Paul says by divine inspiration:

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

To associate with people on a Christian basis where they are not Christians is forbidden. To count anybody a Christian brother who denies the blood atonement, denies the deity of Christ, denies the authority and inspiration of the Bible, is plainly forbidden in the Bible. A Unitarian has a right to his religion, but he has no right to call it the Christian religion, because it is not, and no Christian has a right to have fellowship on a spiritual basis with an infidel. Of course, an infidel is simply one who does not believe in the inspiration of the Bible and the essentials of the Christian faith, as dictionaries plainly define the term.

But what can you expect of Baptist pastors when Nels F. S. Ferre, George Buttrick, Emil Brunner, and McCracken of Fosdick's Riverside Church in New York are invited speakers at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville? As the seminaries go, so the preachers go. And so any Baptist who helps support this kind of modernism will have to answer to God for the young preachers led astray by such a wicked example and teaching.

Have you read
the ads?

Billy Graham in India

Violence Prevents Mass Meetings in Bombay. 100,000 Hear Evangelist in Three Services in Madras, 4,000 Claim Christ

By George Burnham, Friend of the Editor
Chattanooga News-Free Press Staff Writer

Billy Graham, who flew 8,000 miles to India as a representative of the Prince of Peace, was welcomed with a bloody orgy of mob violence described as the blackest days in the history of ancient Bombay. The surging street battles between howling mobs and rifle-firing police, with death tolls climbing past the 50 mark and hundreds injured, forced cancellation of Billy's meetings here January the thirteenth.

The rally, which would have been the largest Protestant religious meeting ever held here, would have been the first on the 25,000-mile around-the-world tour.

Two persons were killed outside the stadium where the meeting was scheduled to be held. A mob of rock-throwing hooligans attacked the police station only a few minutes after Christian leaders of Bombay had conferred with the police commissioner about the danger of holding the meeting.

Five officers were killed during the day as police clamped a tight dusk-to-dawn curfew on the city and ordered cancellation of all public meetings and sports events. Authorities agreed it would be inviting a major disaster to hold the large open air religious meeting with such tension mounting.

A civil disturbance over the party that would rule Bombay, not the visit of Billy, was given as the cause of the violence but most officials agreed that the uprising was Communist inspired.

Billy went to troubled areas of Bombay where trams were stoned and cars burned. He saw young men beating an old shopkeeper for keeping his store open. Human hate was rampant. A policeman was stoned to death at his post. Acid bombs were thrown into faces of people.

During his travels around Bombay Billy saw many things strange to an American. He saw a mongoose kill a cobra; took off his shoes and walked through a Hindu temple where people worshipped some of their 35,000 gods; saw scores of mothers, fathers and children sleeping on streets and saw them tie their few possessions on branches of trees. During the day he talked with educated men who would never kill a cow or an ant or any living thing for fear they would be killing an ancestor.

When Billy returned to his hotel room he fell on his knees and prayed, "Oh God, help us to love these people. Help us to put our arms around them and love them as Christ would have done."

The masses didn't get to hear

Billy in Bombay, but a large indoor meeting was held for ministers and Christian workers. They rejoiced over the fact that God could use mob violence to make Bombay the most prayed-for city in history.

Billy told them he was not discouraged. Hate and death had marred the beginning, he said, but added that Christians around the world were praying that God would use the weakness of fighting men to spotlight the promises of Christ for people everywhere.

Vital India, throbbing giant of the Far East, is being courted by world spokesmen from many lands who have stated India is the key to all southeastern Asia. This is a land of 400,000,000 people, more than twice the population of the United States, in a land half the size.

Russia's Bulganin and Khrushchev made a triumphal tour through India in recent months, and it is evident they gained many followers for Communism.

It is into such a picture as this that the world's most famous evangelist has stepped.

On the brighter side for Billy's visit are thousands of concerned Christians who prayed for several years that God would send him here, with over 3,000 letters asking Billy to come. When he accepted the invitation several months ago for a three-week tour, Christians here started a chain of 24-hour prayer meetings that God would do something big for India. They believe their prayers will be answered.

Missionaries from America, Canada, England and other countries, along with Christians from India, are traveling hundreds of miles from remote wilderness outposts to attend the meetings. They are returning with new vigor for what they consider to be the world's most important job—and who can say that it isn't.

Graham Preaching to Multitudes in Madras, 4,000 Professions in Three Days

Among many thousands of people who poured into Madras from all parts of India to hear Billy Graham was one man who walked over 400 miles. He preached at villages along the way.

When told about the man Billy replied, "I am not worthy of preaching to that man. I should be sitting at his feet."

One hundred people from Hyderabad, 800 miles away, rode a train

four days and nights. They had been praying in a 24-hour prayer chain for weeks that God would bless India through Billy.

When all accommodations in town were gone people went from house to house seeking rooms. Hundreds slept in the open. They had come to hear a man who had the peculiar gift for talking about God in a language that people could understand.

Morning meetings at 7 o'clock and evening meetings at 6 o'clock were scheduled for three days. The morning meetings were held for ministers, with more than 5,000 on hand at dawn for the first meeting.

Over 30,000 turned out for the evening rally. Some of the people sat at the site all day. About 3,000 were present by 2 p.m. Billy has had larger crowds but there was something different about this one. People, some dressed in rags and others in the finest of silk robes, sat there on grass mats and waited. Most were barefooted. Men and women never sit together in church. There was no hum of conversations. People were quiet. It was an unreal quietness.

There were two choirs of 300 each. One sang in English, and the other in Indian dialect. An Indian band played music which had a foot-patting beat to it.

Billy stepped up to the mike. He had two interpreters instead of the usual one. The message had to be translated into Telegu and Tamil dialects. He would stop after each phrase or sentence and had plenty of time to scratch his head before time to speak again. India has hundreds of dialects. People can live 20 miles apart and not be able to understand each other. Billy spoke about a man by the name of Jesus Christ. Some of the people in the strange congregation had never before heard of Him. To others Christ was just one of thousands of other gods, but Billy described Him as the only God, with the Bible quotation, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me." He added:

"Many Indians seem to have the idea that Christianity is a western religion. That is wrong. There were Christian churches in India before America was discovered. Christ was an easterner. His skin was not as light as mine and it was not as dark as yours." A wire service dispatch quoted Billy as saying Christ was a Negro. He did not say that.

He described Christ as the only road to Heaven and then told eager listeners they could only get there by repentance of sin and receiving Jesus by faith.

He gave the invitation. The response was immediate. The front aisle was filled in minutes. Some of those standing before the platform wore a tiny dot in the forehead—the sign of a Hindu holy man. A man knelt with his face in the dust. Pitiful little children with their ribs showing stood there looking up. Members of the high and low castes stood side by side. The front aisle was becoming dangerously filled and Billy had to ask people to stand where they were. In the counseling room a total of 1,389 signed decision cards. But over 4,000 Gospels of John were given out. There were not enough Tamil, Telegu and English counselors to go around.

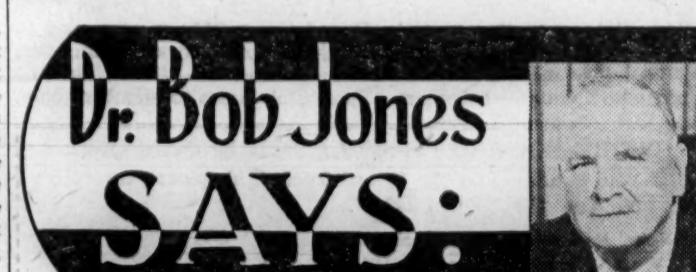
On the second night 904 signed cards and over 1,000 signed decision cards the third night.

Probably the most impressive service of the Madras meetings was a morning address to 7,000 students of the area. Billy stressed the folly of rejecting Christ because the human mind cannot understand all about Him intellectually.

Two hundred and fifty of the students responded to the invitation. A missionary in India for many years said, "These are the finest young men and women in India. This is the first time anyone has ever reached their hearts with the Gospel of Christ." His eyes were filled with tears.

During three days in Madras Billy spoke to over 100,000 Indians and recorded about 4,000 decisions for Christ. Bulganin and Khrushchev didn't do as well.

Please mention THE SWORD OF THE LORD when answering advertisements.



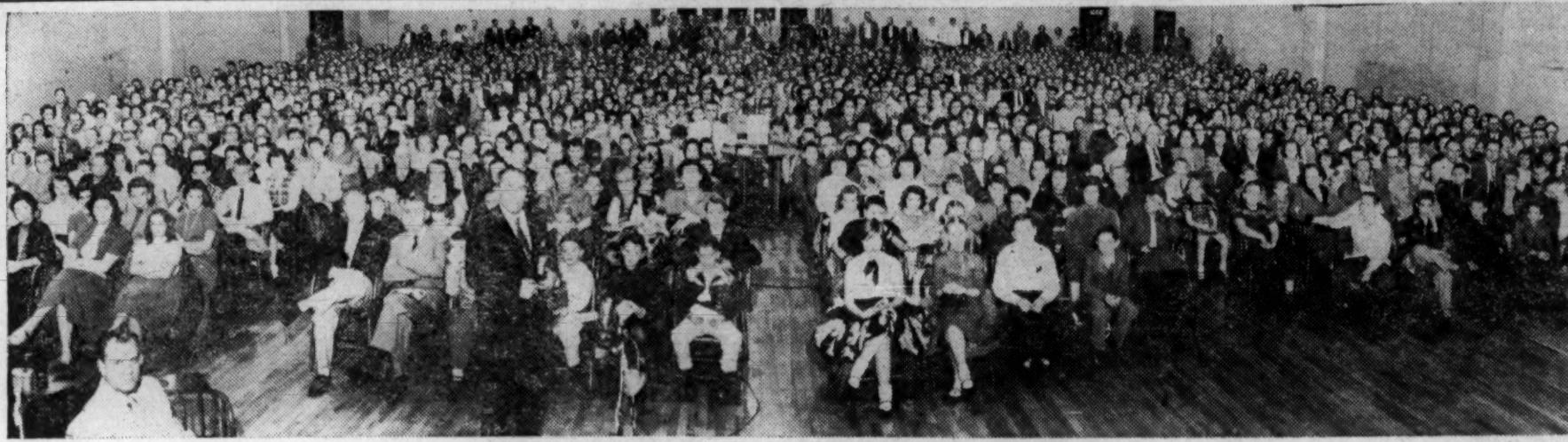
One of the most inspiring statements we have ever had was one in a recent letter. A good Christian woman sent some money for Bob Jones University and said, "We are still praying for you and the University, and our faith tells us it will never fail." Our prayer since we founded Bob Jones about twenty-nine years ago has been that it would never fail God. We want it to be true to Him until our Lord comes.

The University has never knowingly compromised with the world or sacrificed its convictions on the altar of convenience. We have been true to the doctrinal position of the school, and any time we have learned that a teacher was out of line with our doctrinal position, we have let that teacher go. We have been able to maintain high academic standards and give our strong evangelistic emphasis, and the Lord has carried on for us.

Now, you Christian friends can help us. Pray earnestly and pray daily for us. The responsibility of the president and his associates is a great responsibility. They need your prayers. We need financial help for our building program, for our Student Help Fund, and for our missionary work. Please let us hear from you. Thank you and God bless you.

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Hyman Appelman Campaign, Anniston, Alabama

From January 1 to January 15 Hyman Appelman preached 72 times in Anniston, Alabama, in his second Association Wide Campaign there.

City authorities volunteered free use of the large City Auditorium and large crowds attended nightly. All the schools, many civic clubs, two daily radio programs, two Sunday programs were on Appelman's schedule for addresses.

More than 400 decisions for Christ were recorded, with more than 300 of these coming upon profession of faith and to join the churches of the area. Among the converts were 7 members of the high school football team. In addition, a number of the military personnel, including several WAC's from the nearby military post also found Christ during those two weeks.

Dr. Garrett Graham, pastor of the First Baptist Church, General Chairman of the Campaign, had this to say:

"This is the greatest revival in which I have participated for a long while. The loyal cooperation of all the pastors and churches left nothing to be desired."

New Plan for . . . Book Club

(Continued from page 1)

out well-established habits, etc., have joined the Book Club and have gotten free books. But some of them moved without notifying us. Some of them let the automatic shipment come without sending in their rejection-substitution cards and then failed to pay. Many thousands did not pay as they had promised within seven days. So, we have lost from \$50 to \$250 a month on bad debts on Book Club members who did not pay their bills, besides the extra work of collecting from slow paying members.

Another difficulty with the present Book Club plan is that it requires a great deal of detailed work. It requires strong supervision, much checking. We do not have the workers to do what is needed; we cannot give the supervision the present plan requires; and we can no longer lose money on bad accounts. The meticulous bookkeeping of all these accounts has had some errors and we have sometimes made mistakes and lost friendship, because of so much bookkeeping and unavoidable errors. We must have an easier and simpler way for regular customers to buy good books, well recommended, and save money. Hence the new plan.

How Simple, Easy, Trouble-free to Save Money on the New Sword Book Club Plan!

The new plan is simply this. Regular Book Club members only, by ordering on a Book Club order blank which will be sent each month with the *Book Club News*, may save 15% on every book bought through the Sword Book Club—books which the Sword of the Lord Publishers publish and books from other principal Christian book publishers in America—the best books selected by our Book Club judges! These regular members, who will buy as many as five books a year, any books they choose from those 4 or 5 offered each month in the *Book Club News*, and approved by our distinguished judges, will get the *Book Club News* free, will get 15% discount on all his purchases (sometimes more on special bargains).

You understand that there will be no automatic shipment of a first selection, or any other. Either you order the book or you do not get it. There will be no charge accounts, no bills. You send cash with your order when you want the book. There will be no free dividend books. The saving you get is in actual cash discount of 15% or more, plus the saving of postage and handling charge which our retail customers (those who do not belong to the Book Club) regularly pay. There will be no misunderstanding.

ing about credit, no misunderstanding about whether you want a book or don't want it. If you want the book, you send for it enclosing the cash, but at 15% discount from the publishers' price. That is all there is to it.

Of course, we cannot give these discounts and then pay the postage to people who order one or two books a year. But those who are regular Book Club members, and would buy five or more books a year from us, may have the privilege of the Sword Book Club.

You will be expected to keep your membership alive by an order within four months, and by buying at least 5 books within the year. Those who let their membership lapse will simply not get the *Book Club News* and the special blanks on which they may order at a cash discount.

Again let us remind you of the great benefits of belonging to the Sword Book Club.

1. You get the *Sword Book Club News* free, each month, with a description of carefully chosen books and reviews written by our distinguished judges. Thus you will never buy a bad book, nor buy one without knowing what it is about.

2. You buy the best Christian books at a cash discount of 15% or more from the regular published price.

3. You also save the postage which we normally charge when selling books by mail. Book Club members who maintain their mem-

WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

EVANGELIST HUGH F. PYLE, 1721 South Gordon Street, S. W., Atlanta 10, Georgia, conducted revival services last month in the Plymouth Baptist Church, Columbus, Mississippi, Rev. Herbert Shepherd, pastor. Over 100 public

decisions were recorded with 41 coming on profession of faith, some 60 rededications of life and backsliders reclaimed, and 3 additions by letter. Pastor and people said it was the best attended and most effective revival in the history of the church. The evangelist spoke at the Columbus High School where a good number of students indicated a desire to be saved and he spoke twice daily on two separate radio stations. In addition to the public decisions, several professions of faith were made in homes.

* * * * *

Rev. Sam G. Martin, pastor of the Norhill Baptist Church at Houston, Texas, writes of a glorious five-day revival with **EVANGELIST FREDDIE GAGE**, Box 74, B. U. Station, Waco, Texas, and his singing companion, Jimmy Snellen. Starting out a youth revival it became an entire church revival after the first night. During the five days there were 14 professions of faith, 12 uniting with the church by letter, 50 rededications and 60 young people who pledged to abstain from drinking alcohol or using narcotics in any form. In addition 100 promised to give at least an hour a week in visitation for Christ and His church. Overflow crowds attended all services and the pastor highly commends the team.

* * * * *

The First Baptist Church of Lincoln Park, Michigan, just closed a one-week campaign with **EVANGELIST JOHN LINTON**, 328 Belle Isle View, Riverside, Windsor, Canada. The pastor reported the best attendance in the history of the church. On the closing Sunday over 30 came forward, mostly for salvation.

* * * * *

Rev. C. E. Brickwedel, pastor of the Lents Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon, reports one of "the best and most fruitful evangelistic campaigns ever held in any local church of which I have been pastor." **EVANGELIST TOM FAIR**, 3431 Southeast 36th Avenue, Portland 2, Oregon, was assisted by his wife at the piano and organ, and Bill Jackson, a converted opera singer. The pastor reports that the attendance averaged 100 nightly throughout the two weeks and there were 48 forward to trust Christ as Saviour and 188 other decisions such as rededications, church membership, baptism, family altar, Bible reading and prayer, witnessing, tithing and assurance. These 236 decisions were made by 121 different people.

* * * * *

Gospel singer **HARRY BUNDY**, 6265 Church Street, Los Angeles 42, California, has teamed up with

(Continued on page 5)

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If you want to join the Sword Book Club please carefully read and sign the coupon below.

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214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois

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In consideration for these great privileges I agree:

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2. to enclose cash with every order for books,
3. that I will keep my membership alive with some purchases from the Book Club at least every four months,
4. that I will expect a discount and saving of postage only from books which I order from blanks provided with the *Book Club News*, to members only.

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Powerful Indictment

By David Lawrence

in St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*

WASHINGTON—An address was delivered the other day that should have been printed in every newspaper in every country in the world. It was made by George Meany, president of the newly merged AFL and CIO and reflects better than any governmental pronouncement ever issued here what the American people really think about communism, about "neutralism" abroad, about "package deals" in the UN, and about misguided "liberals" and "anti-anti-communists" inside the United States.

Mr. Meany, who spoke before the National Religion and Labor Foundation in New York, pointedly questioned the course pursued by Nehru of India and Tito of Yugoslavia. But what he said might also be pondered by the leaders of both major parties in the British Parliament who want to appease Red China and by Messrs. Khrushchev and Bulganin of the Soviet Union because it comes from the head of the largest organization of free workers in the world with a membership of more than 15,000,000.

"**TOO MANY PEOPLE** in the free world," said Mr. Meany, "fail to see the real nature of communism as the mortal foe of everything that we hold dear, of every moral and spiritual value. Too many in the free world are still prisoners of the illusion that communism is, historically speaking, a progressive system—extreme liberalism temporarily making bad mistakes."

"Actually communism represents darkest reaction. It is an anti-social system in which there are imbedded some of the worst features of savagery, slavery, feudalism and lifespan exploitation manifested in the industrial revolution of early-day capitalism."

"Too many in the free world seem to have lost their capacity for moral indignation against the most brutal inhumanities when they are perpetrated by communists. It is painful, but we must face the cruel facts of life."

"**WE OF THE DEMOCRATIC** camp must develop a far more vigorous moral attitude. We must rekindle our capacity to cry out against, to protest against the godless dogmas and savage crimes being perpetrated by Moscow."

"Such struggles and such protests are not negative actions. They are positive. They are morally and politically constructive. I know of nothing more positive and constructive than a total struggle against the totalitarian cancer in the bony politic of modern society."

"It is rather disturbing to me that many people in our country who call themselves liberals are stone silent about the Soviet concentration camps. They never find the time to utter a word of condemnation against the communist-imperialist destruction of the national independence and democratic rights of hundreds of millions of people in Europe and Asia."

"It is shocking to see the studied attempts being made by Western diplomacy to tear to shreds the charter of the United Nations under the guise of the so-called package deal with Moscow and Peiping. Can it be that the free world is so weak in its moral spirit that it does not recognize this deal as appeasement of the worst kind?"

"**I AM ALL FOR A FIGHT** to the finish against racialism in our own midst. Racialism is damnable and detestable in any form. But racialism in reverse—as now propagated in India and Burma by Khrushchev and Bulganin—is just as reprehensible."

"And the communist imprisonment of hundreds of thousands of hostages—so-called war prisoners—10 years after the close of the war, in violation of every human right and international agreement—is morally reprehensible. One would expect the true liberal to cry out in protest against human beings being carted, tagged and shuttled about for weeks in rail yards of Russia, as if they were carloads of coal or bags of potatoes."

"Not until we of the free world can give rebirth to a vibrant moral attitude, to a burning indignation against such frightful bestialities, can the freedom-loving people be sufficiently stirred to gather the moral strength for resisting and defeating the totally antimoral dogmas and deeds of communism at home and abroad. Yes, this means above all a moral struggle against communism."

"Communism is the very opposite of liberalism. Communism is the deadliest enemy of liberalism. Liberals should be the most consistent and energetic fighters against communism. Liberals must also be on guard against developing a certain type of being anti-anti-communist."

"Only by refusing to be thus entrapped, can liberals shed every vestige of subconscious and conscious regard for communism as a movement with which they have something in common."

"Much more regard must be shown by the democracies for principles—for the principles of human rights and human freedom. We must never sacrifice principles to expediency. This means being rigid in support of our principles."

"**MOSCOW IS SURE** it has history's timetable in its pocket. Hitler once thought so, too. We have nothing to fear from peaceful competition. They need our help. We do not need theirs. They have nothing that can help us. What they have can only hurt us. But what we have they want from us in order to help and save them from the follies of communism and Soviet imperialism."

"We must avoid the suicidal self-deception of the popular front and united front."

"No country, no people, no movement can stand aloof and be neutral in this struggle. Nehru and Tito are not neutral. They are aids and allies in the fact and in effect, if not in diplomatic verbiage."

"In conclusion, I cannot emphasize too strongly to you: The conflict between communism and freedom is the problem of our time. It overshadows all other problems. This conflict mirrors our age, its toils, its tensions, its troubles and its tasks. On the outcome of this conflict depends the future of all mankind. I pray that, on the

How to Control Your Temper

A troubled Christian writes confessing to a bad temper and asking how to overcome this fault. The counsel given this Christian friend should help you also, and we give it here.

1. You must lay your whole life on the altar for God, being willing to be what He wants you to be and do what He wants you to do. There is no such thing as being victorious without being surrendered. If you are really surrendered to the will of God and willing to do what He wants you to do, then you have a right to ask His help.

2. You should set out to grow in grace by daily reading the Word of God. I suggest that you read several chapters a day, that you read it with earnest and loving attention and that you ask the blessed Holy Spirit to teach you God's Word. Jesus prayed for us Christians, "Sanctify them through thy truth. Thy Word is truth." In Acts 20:32 Paul said to the elders of Ephesus, "I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." You see, the Word of God has a sanctifying influence that sets us apart for God and helps us to live to please Him.

Again, Psalm 119:9 says, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." These Scriptures clearly show that clean, consecrated holy living requires knowing, meditating on the Word of God. You can have the Christian character and strength you need if you take plenty of time with the Word of God and meditate on it continually.

3. You should have regular times of secret prayer, preferably each morning, perhaps more often than once a day. And when you pray, confess your sin. Particularly take pains to confess this fault of temper and a sharp tongue. In fact, every time you become conscious that you have done wrong in this matter you should go to God at once in your heart, honestly confessing that you have done wrong. First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Notice that God will not only forgive the wrong but will cleanse us, that is, help to get us away from the sin. Here is an absolute promise of God; you should believe it and act on it.

4. One more thing is necessary to overcome this fault of temper and its results. When it causes you to speak sharply to someone or mistreat someone, you must apologize to them. There is nothing that will do so much to overcome a fault as honest confession. That old carnal nature of yours will certainly get tired of having to "shell down the corn" and admit the sin of an ugly temper and unkind words and mistreatment of friends. So learn to say at once, "I am sorry! I should not have said that."

I suggest that you keep this letter at hand until you thoroughly memorize these five steps and you can have constant and daily victory over your temper, by God's grace.

In the Saviour's name, yours,
John R. Rice.

threshold of the atomic age, we—all of the free world—can muster the moral courage and total strength to preserve the peace and promote the freedom of the men and women of every continent, color and creed."

morning, perhaps more often than once a day. And when you pray, confess your sin. Particularly take pains to confess this fault of temper and a sharp tongue. In fact, every time you become conscious that you have done wrong in this matter you should go to God at once in your heart, honestly confessing that you have done wrong. First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Notice that God will not only forgive the wrong but will cleanse us, that is, help to get us away from the sin. Here is an absolute promise of God; you should believe it and act on it.

Brother Fehsenfeld continues, "Harry is one of the few men I know on the platform as Gospel singer alone, Evangelist Fehsenfeld writes the most sincere and heart-warming word about Brother Bundy. He says that 'Harry Bundy possesses the ability, God-given, to get people to sing . . . He also knows how to lead people to want to work together in a choir effort . . . He has a good tenor voice . . . His singing has always moved hearts and honored the Lord."

Evangelist or church who has need of such a revival singer is encouraged to prayerfully consider Brother Harry Bundy.

With the Evangelists

(Continued from page 4)

EVANGELIST DEL FEHSENFELD much of the time for ten years. Now that Brother Bundy is in the field as Gospel singer alone, Evangelist Fehsenfeld writes the most sincere and heart-warming word about Brother Bundy. He says that "Harry Bundy possesses the ability, God-given, to get people to sing . . . He also knows how to lead people to want to work together in a choir effort . . . He has a good tenor voice . . . His singing has always moved hearts and honored the Lord."

Brother Fehsenfeld continues, "Harry is one of the few men I know on the platform as Gospel singer who is the same regardless of crowd, circumstances, or conditions. He begins when it is time to begin. He is never 'down.' He lives consistently as a Christian. He is loyal to the servant of God with whom he works and above all else, he is loyal to the one he serves, His Lord."

Evangelist or church who has need of such a revival singer is encouraged to prayerfully consider Brother Harry Bundy.

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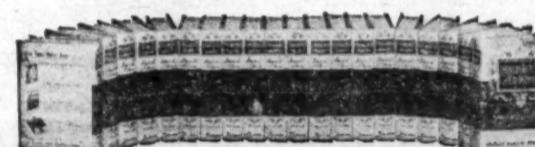
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SWORD OF THE LORD
214 West Wesley Street
Wheaton, Illinois

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Why Ordain Preachers?

By the Editor

From Clarksville, Tennessee, a young man writes the following kindly and gracious letter.

"Dear Dr. Rice,

"I wish to tell you how much I enjoy THE SWORD OF THE LORD. It has been a great blessing to me in helping to solve questions concerning doctrine.

"We had a missionary to Japan and he said he saw your paper over there quite a bit. I was thrilled that even they were interested in hearing and reading the old-fashioned preaching.

"I wish for you to help me. Is there any Scripture concerning the ordination that the Baptists, I am a Baptist, give?

"If a person were to ask me why I should be ordained, or rather why I want to be ordained, what could I tell them?

"Is it necessary for one to have a church before being ordained?

"I would appreciate your immediate reply.

"Till Jesus comes again"

(Signed) J.—G. H.

The Editor's Answer

Dear Brother H—:

I am glad to have your letter asking what the Bible has to say about ordination of preachers. I hope I can help you.

In Acts, chapter 6, we find that seven men, "... full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom . . ." were selected to be deacons. The people by mutual consent sought out the seven men, "Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on

them." That was an ordination service, or an installation service, and the apostles laid their hands on the deacons' heads and prayed for them that God would give them power for the work they were to do.

Another Scripture on this matter of ordination for the Lord's work is given in Acts 13:1-3:

"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said,

Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

You will note that in the church at Antioch a group of leaders, elders, preachers prayed together. God told them to set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work that He had called them to. "And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

Again here was laying on of hands of the presbytery" (I Tim. 4:14).

Here it seems quite clear that a presbytery, or a group of elders, (ministers) laid their hands on

Timothy, and prayed for him, setting him apart officially to the work of the ministry. And in answer to these who prayed, a certain gift came upon Timothy for the ministry.

Again, in Acts 14:23 we find that Paul and Barnabas "... ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commanded them to the Lord, on whom they believed." I do not know all that took place in the ordination, but it included passing on the fitness of the men to be elders or preachers, included prayer (in that case with fasting), and we suppose the laying on of hands, as was the New Testament custom illustrated in the three cases I have already mentioned.

I do not know that ordination in

Bible times always involved a charge to the church, a charge to the candidate, a presentation of a

Bible, and such things. But those elements are certainly fitting in the ordination of a man to be pastor of a church or to preach the Gospel. We know that men laid hands on the heads of ministerial candidates and prayed for them. Sometimes this included fasting. And always it was intended that the candidate for the ministry should be filled with the Spirit and enabled and empowered for his work.

In Timothy's gift, it is indicated,

that a supernatural gift came upon Timothy with the laying on

of the hands of the presbytery.

You ask if one must be pastor of a church before being ordained.

Usually it is understood that if

God has called a man to preach he may preach, whether ordained or not. D. L. Moody was never ordained. Billy Sunday was ordained after he had been preaching many years. However, to have the full rights of a pastor, one needs to be ordained. The government recognizes an ordained minister as one authorized to perform marriages. Most churches feel that there ought to be an ordained minister to administer baptism, and the Lord's Supper. So, in some cases, men are not ordained to the ministry until they are called as pastor of some church.

However, in my own case I was

anxious to be set apart for the

ministry, and the First Baptist

Church at Decatur, Texas, recognized that God had called me, and

set me apart in a public ordination

service before I was called as

pastor of a church. I think that

there is no set rule in this matter.

No one should be ordained until

he means to give himself unreservedly to the ministry of the Gospel.

If all are convinced that he

has whole-heartedly given himself

to the ministry and should be re-

ognized as a man of God in the

ministry, then an ordination may

proceed before a man is called to

a church.

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Is It Wrong to Have Social Affairs Sponsored by the Church?

By the Editor

An earnest Christian man writes the editor, telling how his church has now some social affairs for young people and others, sometimes serving refreshments in the church building or having games in the church basement. He asks me for counsel. Is such Christian fellowship, sponsored by churches and in church buildings, permissible in Bible-believing and spiritual churches? He mentions that Jesus cast out the money lenders from the temple saying, "It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves" (Matt. 21:13).

Trusting that this answer to this question may be helpful to others, we publish it here.

Dear Brother M—:

I am grateful for your honest good letter and will answer it as honestly and briefly as I can.

I was a pastor for years and I had the same problem to consider and decide upon. First, I was so displeased with the overemphasis on entertainment in many churches that I started out not to have any kind of social affairs in the church building or sponsored by the church. However, since I

could not find any Scripture that forbids having social affairs, I had to change my mind and consider whether or not social meetings might not be good for Christians. Later we had some social affairs in the homes and sometimes in the church building.

I certainly think it would be wrong to make a church "a den of thieves," but I do not see that one is a thief because he has a sandwich or a cup of tea. Having wicked men defrauding the public in the temple at Jerusalem is much different from having Christian fellowship in a church house.

I was accustomed even when a boy to having dinners served for visitors on certain occasions. I did not see anything wrong with that, but strangely enough, I was prejudiced against having other kinds of social affairs.

Now my convictions are as follows:

1. In New Testament times they did not have church buildings at first. Churches met in the homes of the people or other borrowed buildings. Hence our ideas about what is right and proper in a church house do not come from the Bible. As far as we can tell from the Bible, anything that is proper and Christian in a home would be proper in a church house, if it were used to the glory of God.

2. The Bible commands a Christian to be just as religious about the other things in his life as in official church services. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31). I believe that people can eat and drink to the glory of God.

3. Christians really need fellowship. When I was pastor I was sad to find that some of our Christian young people married unsaved people and other young Christians were lonely because they only saw one another in church. I felt it was helpful to encourage them to get together as Christians, and I think a church can do great good by carefully supervising the fellowship of its young people.

4. Where the Bible does not make an issue or give any commands forbidding Christian fellowship in the church building or fellowship sponsored by the churches, then we Christians ought not make an issue. We should stand on the Bible itself. Where the Bible speaks, we should speak. Where the Bible is silent, we should be silent. With that in

mind, I cannot conscientiously oppose Christian fellowship meetings, whether for young people or old people, sponsored by the church and even in the church building.

5. However, I think it is very important to remember that social life is not so important as spiritual life. I think there should be prayer and something of a spiritual nature in all the social occasions sponsored by a church, and it should certainly be of the highest type. Churches certainly

should never allow dancing, should never encourage attendance at the commercial picture show, etc. And

young people must be continually taught that entertainment is not the main thing. Some of it is good, but it must always be secondary to soul winning and other more important matters.

I thank you for your kindly letter. I pray that my letter may be some help in finding the will of God.

In the Saviour's name, yours,

John R. Rice.

News Notes

The 14th annual convention of the National Association of Evangelicals, Dr. Henry H. Savage, president, will be held at the Hotel Hollenden, Cleveland, Ohio, April 10 through 12.

Speakers will include past-president of the NAE, Dr. Paul S. Rees, pastor of the First Covenant Church of Minneapolis and associated with the Billy Graham campaigns in England and Scotland; Dr. Howard Ferrin, president of Providence-Barrington Bible College, the president and others.

The NAE "Convention of Conventions" will schedule meetings of the National Religious Broadcasters; Women's Fellowship; Evangelical Foreign Missions Association; National Sunday School Association; and Commissions on Education, Evangelical Youth, World Relief, Chaplains, Social Action, Evangelical Action, Evangelism and Church Extension.

All the NAE commissions, agencies and staff will report.

Delegates will represent some 40 NAE denominations and many additional individual churches. Churches affiliated with the NAE, either by denominational or individual membership will be entitled to one delegate for each 500 members or fraction thereof.

Thirty-two employees of Bridwell Oil Co., Wichita Falls, Texas, each received a company check for \$50.00 as a reward for abandoning the smoking habit. The offer was made last March by J. S. Bridwell, oilman-rancher, who willingly paid out \$1,600, plus a surprise bonus to another 40 employees who had already quit before his offer.

Wins \$100,000, Will Give God \$10,000

Many of the daily newspapers have recently reported the winning of the largest TV prize to (Continued on page 8)

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I thank you for your kindly letter. I pray that my letter may be some help in finding the will of God.

In the Saviour's name, yours,

John R. Rice.

God's Best

God has His best things for the few Who dare to stand the test; God has His second choice for those Who will not have His best. It is not always open ill That risks the Promised Rest: The better often is the foe That keeps us from God's best. Some seek the highest choice, But, when by trials pressed, They shrink, they yield, they shun the cross And so they lose God's best. Give me, O Lord, Thy highest choice, Let others take the rest: Their good things have no charm for me, I want Thy very best. I want in this short life of mine, As much as can be pressed Of service true to God and man— Make me to be Thy best.

Let others take the rest: Their good things have no charm for me,

I want in this short life of mine, As much as can be pressed Of service true to God and man— Make me to be Thy best.

—A. B. Simpson



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They Say I Am Crazy!

(Continued from page 1)

is—I DON'T WANT TO SMOKE, I DON'T PLEASE TO DRINK, I DON'T CARE TO GAMBLE, I DON'T DESIRE ANY SHOWS, I DON'T FEEL LIKE DANCING WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S WIFE, AND I KNOW OF NO LODGE I CAN CONSCIENTIOUSLY ATTEND!

Is that being crazy? They say I am!

But, if I'm crazy—I have Heaven for my asylum, and Christ for my caretaker, and a happy peace with God, and I'm "living it up!" I think I'll just go on being crazy!

Oh, there are a lot of things they say I'm crazy about, but I'll just list a few to see if you think I'm crazy, too. They say I'm crazy because:

I Don't Drink

No, and I never have touched my lips to any alcoholic beverage. I almost did once when I gave blood and they offered me a jigger of the stuff; I don't know what it was, but I said I didn't need any; found out afterwards it was whisky! In Florida they give you orange juice—lots better! But, you know, I wonder how many people would say I was crazy if I should ask them in their serious moments "Do you think I'm crazy because I don't drink like 65 million other Americans?" I think most of them would say I wasn't—and especially the 65 million Americans who do!

In one North Carolina county alone, an investigation turned up these figures: they lose \$22 million a year because of the 2,200 drunks they arrest every year! Ten thousand dollars a year for every drunkard they have! Say, that's kind of crazy, don't you think?

Listen, young people, Evangeline Booth's words are so true—EVERY STATEMENT CAN BE PROVEN BY THE FACTS AND FIGURES:

"Drink has drained more blood, hung more crepe, sold more homes, plunged more people into bankruptcy, armed more villains, slain more children, snatched more wedding rings, defiled more innocence, blinded more eyes, twisted more limbs, dethroned more reason, wrecked more manhood, dishonored more womanhood, broken more hearts, blasted more lives, driven more to suicide and dug more graves than any other poisoned scourge that ever swept its death-dealing waves across the world."

Friend, if that's the case—and it is—I don't think I'm so crazy for not drinking, do you?

And say, Americans last year spent nearly \$10 billion for liquors. That's one-fifth of all the money spent in the United States for everything! And yet they holler, "Why don't we pay our school

teachers more money? Why can't we get better schools? Why so much juvenile delinquency?" Juvenile delinquency? THERE WOULD BE NO SUCH THING IF IT WERE NOT FOR PARENTAL DELINQUENCY FIRST! ADULT DELINQUENCY! Who runs the beer halls? The young people? Who directs the night clubs, the young people? Who makes, distributes, and sells the smokes and drinks? The young people? We spent \$850 million more for alcohol than education last year! Sounds crazy to me! It just doesn't make sense!

Each person in the United States drank eighteen gallons of the stuff last year, on an average, counting even those who don't drink! Over fifty gallons apiece for the 65 million who do drink, and they spent over \$150 apiece for it! Wonder how much they gave to charity? The church?

It all sounds crazy to me. But, they say I'm crazy!

Scientists tell us, and facts prove, that alcohol attacks the brain first, loosening inhibitions, lessening restraint to sin, so that young people have to "beer up" before they go to their dances to get courage for their advances—but, the next morning all they have is a big head and a dark brown taste in their mouth. And, about a month later the girls find something else they wish to God they didn't have! America has, it has been conservatively estimated, about 75,000 illegal abortions a year! Probably alcohol has induced most of it. The damnable brewery industry has called it "cupid's love potion!"

Sounds crazy, stark raving mad, if you ask me!

Beer is proven to attack first in young people that which brings out their sadistic nature; it tends to cruelty. Thus, sex murders—our papers filled with it—with sex orgies of naked bodies, fiendish bludgeoning, and even dissection. I just read of two fellows who failed in a homemade abortion, so they cut up her body into fifty pieces and wrapped each one up in gaudy Christmas tinsel and deposited them in garbage cans throughout the city!

And they say I'm crazy because I don't drink—"like everybody else"!

Oh, young people, DON'T LET SATAN DECEIVE YOU INTO THINKING YOU CAN TAKE "JUST ONE DRINK" AND GET AWAY WITH IT! If you do, then you are crazy! DON'T DO IT!

And, you know, there is another thing they say I'm crazy about, and that is because:

I Don't Vote Wet

You already know what I think about drinking, but some "dope" comes along and says, "But, Mr. Meloon, surely you don't think it is right for us to deprive people of their rights do you? If they want to drink, that's their business; let them have it!"

Listen, WHEN THEY DRINK AND RUN MY CHILDREN DOWN ON THE HIGHWAYS, THAT'S MY BUSINESS! WHEN THEY DRINK AND SEDUCE MY GIRL, THAT'S MY BUSINESS! WHEN THEY DRINK AND WIN AWAY THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF MY CHURCH, THAT'S MY BUSINESS!

In fact, whenever they drink they always meddle in someone else's business! You have never seen a man yet who just loved to get drunk all by himself! Only the confirmed alcoholic does it, and he doesn't love it! He has to!

The Bible says, "None of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." The least (and yet the most) you do is influence some other younger person by your example, if no more—and there is generally more, much more!

When you drink, therefore, it is my business. I'm making it my business! And would to God I had the power to VOTE IT OUT! Christians, we have the power, we have the votes, why don't we do it? Did you know that with those who did vote dry, that IF ALL BAPTISTS ALONE SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE HAD VOTED DRY LAST ELECTION, EVERY STATE WOULD HAVE BEEN DRY! Shame on us!

We have let you down, young people, can you forgive us? We'll try and do better next time!

I had an absentee ballot clerk go with me once to one of my church members so he could vote; he was sick in bed. But, he blurted out, to my surprise, "Me? Vote dry? Listen, I remember the days of prohibition! You'll never get me to vote dry!" He wouldn't touch the stuff himself, but would vote to let others have it. Was he a dry? As Benjamin Bubar, our Civic League state secretary often refers to them, "He is a damp dry!" (Hope I got that "p" on there!) WHAT A STUPID ASS HE WAS! He had swallowed all the liquor barons hogwash! He had swilled in all their sickening commercials over TV and radio—he was crazy, if anyone ever was!

I reminded this man that THERE IS FAR MORE BOOTLEGGING NOW TO EVADE THE TAX THAN THERE EVER WAS UNDER PROHIBITION! FACTS PROVE IT! THERE ARE FAR MORE LIQUOR LAW VIOLATORS NOW THAN THERE EVER WERE BEFORE REPEAL! Yes, and there is far more blindness caused by "bad liquor" (none of it is any good!), far more ill health, caused by drunkenness, far more inmates in institutions for alcoholism, far more drunken driving, far more vagrancy, far more liquor induced crime—TODAY—than ever before! Facts and figures prove this!

Yet, they say I'm crazy to vote dry!

What's so crazy about it? I say they are crazy, foolish! Listen, did you know that there are 10,000 people killed by liquor to every one killed by a mad dog? That's right! Facts prove it. But, what do they do in each case? THEY SHOOT THE MAD DOG AND BURY HIM AND LICENSE THE LIQUOR MEN TO SELL MORE OF THE STUFF TO KILL ANOTHER 10,000!

Who's crazy, I'd like to know? THE BIGGEST STUMBLING-BLOCK THESE FELLOWS HAVE IS THE ONE UNDER THEIR HATS! Why, they are so stupid they arrest a man for being drunk and yet they license men to sell him the stuff that gets him drunk! What's the sense in that?

On one corner they have uniformed policemen—all set, all paid, and all ready to seize him for drinking too much, and on the other corner in one of their stores they have other uniformed men—all set, all paid, and all ready to serve him the stuff to get him that way. Sounds like a con game, a racket—sounds crazy, too!

And that isn't all! The drunk, the alcoholic who gets put in the pen for his sin (pardon me, disease, if you are easily offended!) puts himself and family on the state; he can't support them, can't even pay taxes, so, you know what? THEY TAG THE INNOCENT MAN, THE DRY, THE ABSTAINER WITH EXHORBITANT TAXES NECESSARY TO CARE FOR THEM ALL US! YOU AND I! WE FOOT THE BILL, AND WE CAN'T DO A THING ABOUT IT. The drys pay through the nose so the wets can drink! Sounds crazy to me. But, they call me crazy because I vote dry!

The beer barons are absolutely silly with the talk they give us! "Give us repeal and we'll fill up the coffers of the United States with revenue!" NEVER HAVE ANY FIGURES BEEN AVAILABLE SINCE 1932 THAT SHOW THE UNITED STATES HAS GAINED ONE CENT FROM REVENUE ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES!

In Massachusetts, in 1943, the governor ordered a special investigation into drunkenness in the state. This Zotelli committee found that for every \$1 they got in revenue, they spent \$4.50 to get it. Thirteen million dollars in revenue, but \$61 million to care for the alcohol-induced crime, forsaken homes, prison care, etc. Carefully documented, expertly done, the figures don't lie! The overall picture is the same for the United States.

"But, prohibition won't work! It won't work! We can't have it!"

A little Alaskan town once, cut off early by the ice, missed getting its winter supply of firewater. What happened? In a few weeks

the jail was empty—the first time in years! The saloon went out of business, of course, and the church hired it for a branch Sunday School, which grew and grew until they had a veritable revival. The next winter the town voluntarily failed to order any more liquor. IT WAS BETTER UNDER ENFORCED PROHIBITION.

In Pearl Harbor for forty-five days after December 7, 1941, strict prohibition was clapped on! As everybody knows now, the reason was because our boys were made drunk in Japanese saloons, giving it away! They were so drunk they didn't take the very efficient warning given by the few left on board ship. THEY ENFORCED IT! AND IT WORKED! But, the liquor interests brought such pressure it was finally returned.

HERE'S THE REASON WHY PROHIBITION DIDN'T WORK ONE HUNDRED PER CENT—because it was not enforced one hundred per cent! To the extent we make up our American mind, regenerated by the saving grace of God through belief in His Son Jesus Christ, *prohibition will work!*

Now, Christian, don't go crazy with all the propaganda going around and say, "Well, we have no utopian situation with one hundred per cent Christians, so we might as well wait until Christ comes!" Hogwash! I am for keeping just as much of the stuff away from our young people as I can! I would a lot rather preach to a congregation of bright-eyed, clear-headed, intelligent young people in my church than I had to leave an empty church and seek them out in the brothels and saloons (pardon me, taverns, if you offend easily!) and find them blear-eyed, muddleheaded and stupid from drink, dope, smoke, and barbiturates!

The way some Christians talk, you would think that for them to get into all sorts of sin helped them to be saved! Although it is true that "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound," Paul also said, "What . . . ? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid." But they say, "Yes, but if they are not saved, then whatever they do is just that much more sin, and if they are sinners anyway, then what they do is not really wrong for them, just wrong for Christians!" Again, HOGWASH! This is antinomianism of the most subtle and deceitful type, exactly what Paul was speaking against! I say, LET'S RID THE COUNTRY OF AS MUCH EVIL AS WE CAN! WE AS CHRISTIANS OUGHT TO BE UP TO OUR NECKS IN AS MUCH CIVIC RIGHTEOUS ACTION AS WE CAN! DON'T LET THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE DOWN! SHOW THEM WE CAN HELP THEM LICK SIN WITH THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL—A TWO-EDGED SWORD THAT STRIKES BOTH WAYS, NEGATIVE AS WELL AS POSITIVE! AND WHEN WE DO THEY WILL HAVE MORE RESPECT FOR THE POSITIVE MESSAGE OF SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST!

Yes, they say I'm crazy for not voting wet, but I don't see any sense in it myself!

They say, "Don't vote dry; you are infringing on their liberty!" I heard a fellow say once, about to get into a fight, "Your liberty ends where my nose begins!" Maybe I'm crazy, but their arguments sound positively stupid!

I suppose a lot of people in my town think I'm crazy because I refer to smoking a lot and because:

I Don't Smoke

I stood on a dock in Winter Park, Florida, waiting for my dad's boat to pull in which this man beside me had chartered for the evening. They told me he was a millionaire. The lake was calm, not a ripple; the moon was just coming over the eastern horizon. It was quiet, except for the distant hum of the motor in Dad's 25-passenger "Scenic" that toured Winter Park's lakes. The man beside me coughed, but I didn't think anything about it—we all cough once in a while. But, he soon began coughing vehemently, wheezing in a breath of air only to expel it in a rasping, raucous cough. He tried desperately to end the spell, but his face grew red,

then white, and when it turned blue, I was scared! I asked him if there was anything I could do, get him some water, pat him on the back—something! But, unable to speak, he waved me off as if to say, "Nothing—you can't do anything." He sat down on a bench nearby and got weaker and weaker, and finally, all out of breath, and holding his sides in bitter pain, it subsided. It was some minutes before he got his breath back. As Dad's boat came alongside, he turned to me, a lad of sixteen then, and his breath still short, he said, "Son, do — you — smoke?"

"Why, no sir, I don't."

Then, with as serious a look as I have seen on any man's face, he put his hand on my shoulder and cried, "Then don't ever start! Don't ever start!"

But out of his shirt pocket he took a package of Old Golds (you know, "not a cough in a carload" they were advertising then) and lit it up and blew out a great cloud of the dirty, deceitful, devilish, damning stuff—cigarette smoke!

And, they say I'm crazy! Just because I don't smoke—"like everybody else"!

"Say, Mr. Winter Park Millionaire, what would you give to be able to give up the filthy weed?"

"Son, I'd give all I have if I could only stop smoking!"

"Say, Mr. Winter Park Man, do you think I'm crazy for not smoking?"

"Stick to it, son; you are a wise young fellow!"

So, I go off with my thumbs under my armpits—good, I say!

Yet, I realize now, "But for the grace of God, there goes Wilfrid Meloon!"

"But for Christian parents, who sternly disciplined me, and who set good examples for me, there goes Wilfrid Meloon! Crazy as a coot with the filthy cigarette habit—coughing, wheezing, shaking—and bumming a cigarette off some other bum on the street!"

"Fire at one end and fool at the other, he's pounding another nail in his coffin!"

"Because God didn't outfit him with a smokestack in his head, he has to pull it through his mouth, line his stomach with it, coat his lungs with it, twitch his nerves with it, then exhaust it through his nose and get it in his eyes! The doctor says he'll probably get lung cancer or T. B. or he might go blind. He could die with Ber-

ger's disease that took the King of England a few years ago—caused only by tobacco's nicotine."

Yes, that could be me! But, today I stand 5 feet 11 inches, 180 pounds and healthy and strong! I enjoy the taste of my food; I save up to \$300 a year which I can use to clothe my family and buy ice cream and candy for my kids; I can read a "No Smoking" sign and laugh at it! I can actually go for hours, days, and months without any peculiar nausea arising in the pit of my stomach that raps at me, "You need another cigarette!"

All this while I look out my window and see a fellow walking down the street. What is he doing? Why, he's walking a mile for a Camel! Just can't do without it!

My it's great to be free! Isn't it wonderful, that when someone says to me, "Cigarette?" I can say either, "Yes, thank you!" or I can say, "NO!" and I prefer to say "NO!"

Gene Tunney wrote, "The chain smoker suffers from a chronic tired feeling. He is an energy bankrupt, and must borrow energy at the outrageous interest rate of still more smoking. (Yes, 'Camels give you a lift' that's true, BUT A GREATER LETDOWN! Thus, 'outrageous interest rate'). In the meantime his food tastes like a motorman's glove, and a hacking cough keeps his throat raw as a sandpapered blister! Some fun, smoking!"

And they say I'm crazy because I don't smoke!

And, then there are some who think I'm crazy because:

I Don't Dance

Probably these same people would call Moses crazy, too, when he came down off the mount and found his people—dancing! He was so angry he threw down the tables of stone that God had just written on and broke them. God spoke to Moses and told him that He hated dancing so much that everyone of those people who would not respond to "Who is on the Lord's side?" should have their heads lopped off with the sword! That's what God thought of dancing! Would you call Him crazy? Read all about it in Exodus 32 in the Bible!

I'm crazy, I suppose, but there is one dance, I really believe in, and it is a church dance too! (Someone is horrified!) But I do!

And it is a dance at ten. It is at-ten-dance in church! I fooled you!

Well, that is the only dance that I believe in. Oh, yes, David danced before the Lord, but, you know, I just can't find it, I don't read anywhere that he grabbed some other man's wife, a half-naked woman, round the waist and began waltzing her all over Jerusalem's streets! I don't see that there anywhere! I don't even see there in I Samuel 6 that he danced with anybody! Just alone, and he danced for sheer joy! I have seen my little girl do that. She came down one Christmas morning and saw the Christmas tree just loaded with good things; she couldn't contain herself, her eyes filled with tears and she just jumped up and down—danced for joy!

When Peter healed the man in Acts 3, he, too, went "walking, and leaping (Greek, dancing), and praising God." I don't think that man was crazy at all. I don't think my little girl was crazy, nor David either, BUT THE STAR-EYED DUPES OF THE DEVIL PARADING AROUND A BALLROOM FLOOR TODAY ARE AS CRAZY AS THEY CAN BE IF THEY THINK THEY CAN DO THAT AND COME OUT OF THAT PLACE PURE IN THOUGHT AND DEED AND READY FOR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE!

One day, at work in a boat yard underneath New Hampshire's largest ballroom, at the Weirs, I heard them talking about a young wife and mother who had been caught naked in a car with another woman's husband—right after the dance! I saw rosy-cheeked girls in their early teens weaned away from the purity of their Christian homes by the terrible pull of dancing! I saw scenes in the dark corners under that hall that I shudder at yet. My brother and I had the dubious distinction of a well-paying job to "clean up" after the Saturday night dance so they could have early morning mass on the same floor! (This was before I accepted Christ, mind you!) We found plenty of evidence of the results of unshackled passion, loosened by the sexual embrace of fire-blooded young men! We had to clean up the drunken messes; drink, which goes hand in hand with dancing to help loosen inhibitions and unbind the natural God-given restraint on sex

until it can find its moral outlet in marriage!

And they call me crazy because I don't believe it is right to dance with another man's wife, or wife-to-be! They call me old-fashioned because we try to keep our young people from going to them. They call me narrow-minded because we speak out against even chaperoned home dancing and innocent (?) high school dances! A high school principal here in my state investigated one night, and immediately after a high school dance, he found three couples prostrate—of all places—on the town dump, where they thought no one would look for them!

"But, surely, Rev. Meloon, you couldn't object to a chaperoned dance in a home!" A CHAPERONED SNAKE IS JUST AS POISONOUS AS A LONELY ONE! STRYCHNINE IS JUST AS EFFECTIVE FROM ONE BOTTLE AS ANOTHER! A young couple in fond embrace on a dance floor are not sanctified in their act just because some old biddies are watching them!

I have watched people dance! I've seen them! IT WAS JUST A HUGGING MATCH SET TO MUSIC! I am reminded of Ella Wheeler Wilcox's poem, "THE VICTORY BALL," where she says:

*See, there's one child fresh from school,
Learning the ropes as the old folks rule;
My, how the dead men (soldiers)
laugh and grin
As the tom-tom bangs and the shinny begins!*

*Fat, wet bodies go waddling by
Girded in satin, though God knows why;
Neckless ensembles both white and black,
With a fat, wet hand on a fat, wet back!*

Some fun, dancing! It's crazy, if you ask me! Some duffer comes up and says, "But, dancing is a real art, my boy! Really, it is a wonderful recreation, fine exercise and a good outlet for pure associations among the sexes!" Hogwash! If it is good exercise and they come just for that, you dance hall operators try and announce a special event some night—"MEN ONLY!" and see how many you get out! Crazy?

How many times do you see men dancing with men, and ladies with ladies? Suggest it at the next dance you attend, and you will get laughed out of countenance!

YOU KNOW WHY PEOPLE DANCE, NOW, DON'T YOU? And, if you take that element out of it, the dance will become one of the most unpopular recreations (?) you ever saw!

Am I crazy? Ask the inmates of your insane asylum, where dwells an old looking woman (but still in her twenties), "How did you get here, my dear woman?"

"My mother had me start dancing lessons!"

At the reform school you ask a gruff, hardened juvenile delinquent, "What sent you here, my girl?"

You would probably get an answer something like, "It's none of your d___ business, but I got my start at the high school dances!"

At the prison you ask the sunken-faced harlot, "What made you go into that awful business?"

"My pastor never said a word against the dance!" (Shame on him!)

At the home for unwed mothers, you ask a pretty, pink-faced slip of a girl in her early teens, "And why are you here, little one?"

As tears flood her innocent eyes, she bursts out with a gush of sobbing words, "I lost my purity after a dance!"

And they say I'm crazy because I don't dance! They say it's none of my business when I try to keep other young people from dancing, and when I object to school dance affairs! Yes, they say I'm crazy! What do you think, young folk?

They also say I'm crazy because:

I Don't Play Cards

Well, if I'm crazy, then I'm in the same category as the man who invented the deck of regular cards, for he was an insane king—King Charles of France! But, I

don't use them and the ones who call me crazy are the ones who do! Often this king had seizures or fits of insanity that would send him stark raving mad and they would have to lock him up. (History bears me out; look it up!) While in these fits of insanity, he would curse, swear, blaspheme—and the only thing that they finally found that would calm his outbursts and keep him quiet was a peculiar set of cards he invented himself—the regular playing card of today!

This was in 1392, some 560 years ago now. For hundreds of years after that, these cards were condemned by all society—clubs, organizations—of any repute, including the churches. They were called "The Devil's Bible," "The Devil's Picture Book," and T. DeWitt Talmage said, "I would rather have my children play with a nest of rattlesnakes than with a deck of cards!"

Why? Do you think I'm crazy? Is this just fantasy? Ask the former criminals, gamblers, who have been saved and will reveal to you the secret language of cards, the obscene games, including "strip poker," the demon possession that comes through cards! If I'm crazy not to use them, then some people are completely off their rocker! If people enjoy—I say, enjoy—the thing that alone could satiate a mad, insane king, then—who is crazy? Am I or they? That mad king enjoyed them, too! That "crazy" king and people today have something in common when they use the Devil's bible!

You ask, "Well, why did those cards have that peculiar effect on that king?"

BECAUSE OF THE SO-CALLED, "SECRET MEANING" OR LANGUAGE OF THE CARDS. There is a meaning to each card, and a language with several together—and it is not, by the way, the sugary, goody-goody meaning attributed to them in the obnoxious, nauseating popular song and reading, "THE SOLDIER AND THE DECK OF CARDS." That song is the worst of blasphemies, along with the deck of cards itself! It is true, though, that the Queen represents Mary, the mother of Jesus; but, of course, in the mind of the king he thought of her only to blaspheme her. In his imagination he made the Jack be representative of the lewd, licentious libertine, and the Joker was the illegal offspring of the Queen and the licentious Jack, therefore making Jesus a Joker and the bastard son of a harlot and a libertine!

Do you know now why Christians don't play cards? Of course, many do not know these things! Maybe you didn't, and you still play cards! If so, now you know; I don't see how you could conscientiously use them for any excuse! Down through the past 564 years, these things have been dimmed by time, and righteous indignation against them has waned; so much so that Ely Culbertson boasted he was selling 1,500 copies of his book a day, and that he had personally trained 1,600 men and women to teach the game of bridge alone! And they paid him \$60 apiece to do so!

With this in mind, it appears plain that no person should play any game using this pack of regular playing cards! There is no such thing as an "innocent game of bridge," "an innocent hand of whist," etc.

I don't need to try and prove to you that these cards are the biggest item in gambling, and that Flinch cards, Pit, Snap, etc., just won't do! They could use them to gamble with just as easy as the fifty-two card deck, as you can gamble on anything, but these don't satiate their sinful minds like the "dirty deck"! Try suggesting Pit at the next card party, if you attend! You will get laughed out of town!

If I'm crazy not to play with a tool of Satan that a crazy man invented to satiate his demons, then I'll go on being crazy, but I rather think the shoe is on the other foot. YOU ARE CRAZY IF YOU FOOL AROUND WITH THE DEVIL'S PICTURE BOOK, A PACK OF CARDS!

Then, there are others who think I'm crazy because:

I Don't Go to the Movies

I never drank, I never smoked (except to be smart as a kid, and under good cover) never played

BABY BILLBOARDS



WHERE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SWORD READERS FIND BIG VALUES IN LITTLE SPACE

News Notes

(Continued from page 6)

date. The winner is Mrs. Ethel Park Richardson, a 72-year-old great-grandmother, of Decherd, Tennessee.

When asked what she intended to do with her money, Mrs. Richardson pointed to the sky and said that she was going to "give one tenth to Him."

She has made use of her travels to gather considerable information on the folklore of our country, east and west. Answering correctly a six-part question prepared by Governor Goodwin Knight of California, all of which had to do with the subject she was well versed in, she won the \$100,000 prize.

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until it can find its moral outlet in marriage!

And they call me crazy because I don't believe it is right to dance with another man's wife, or wife-to-be! They call me old-fashioned because we try to keep our young people from going to them. They call me narrow-minded because we speak out against even chaperoned home dancing and innocent (?) high school dances! A high school principal here in my state investigated one night, and immediately after a high school dance, he found three couples prostrate—of all places—on the town dump, where they thought no one would look for them!

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with a deck of cards, and never tried to dance (I'll take that back). Once at a church social the *pastor's daughter* tried to show me, but I wasn't a very good pupil! BUT—with the movies, it was different. I had an insatiable desire to go to the movies! I would steal out of the house to attend the Saturday shows, knowing that I must face sooner or later my dad and mother, yet very often they never said a word. I would go "ga-ga" at the sexy figures on the screen of the latest Hollywood idols, though I was not yet sixteen. I would dream night after night about my idols; I did everything but actually write to them to swell their fan mail!

TO THIS DAY I AWAKE AT NIGHT AND CRY OUT, "O GOD, ERASE THOSE SCENES FROM MY MEMORY FOREVER." But they are still there. I believe He has given me the victory, for they no longer tempt me, but those scenes are still vivid; the groove on my brain is still there. I think I would actually go crazy if I had to have a heavy diet of that stuff—or even once in a while! (And just in passing, the fact that the picture comes through a tube into your very own homes doesn't sanctify the picture!)

One night I crept out the window of our bedroom, silently, silently—only to come face to face with Dad on the porch—waiting for us! He knew! Knew it every time, I suppose. He hadn't enforced his will upon us with a whip (maybe it would have been better if he had), but his look right there was enough to wither me!

He quietly asked, "Where are you going?" (As if he didn't know!)

"To the show with Donald and Harold" (my brother and cousin respectively, both saved and in the Lord now).

"Well, go on tonight, but I want you to do one thing for me. You have just accepted Christ as your Saviour. I want you tonight—just tonight—all through the picture to ask yourself, 'Is this what I ought to be looking at? Will this help me to know Christ better?' And then tomorrow, let me know."

THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I EVER WENT TO THE SHOW!

I did once go to see "King of Kings" in a theater and felt uneasy the whole time! Once recently I went into a theater for a special showing to ministers of "Martin Luther," but even then I felt out of place on the Devil's territory, and vowed then and there I would never enter another theater for any purpose! (Unless they let me preach!)

Am I crazy? They say I am. What do you think?

What is the most common subject of the movies today? No trouble answering that; no one will dispute it—sex! Independent secular surveys—not a bunch of long-haired religious fanatics—but colleges, universities, etc., show as high as eighty-six per cent are sex pictures! Love? HOLLYWOOD "LOVE" IS SPELL-ED DIFFERENTLY—L-U-S-T!

I pick up this week's paper and read the biggest ad in the first paper I pick up, "THE SECOND GREATEST SEX!" Another entitled "PASSION," another "KIS-MET" and is described as "a deluge of song and dance—with the world's most beautiful girls!" "THE RAINS OF RANCHIPUR" described, "Theirs was the greatest sin that even the heavens could not wash away." "ALL THAT HEAVEN ALLOWS" described, "They wanted all of each other that heaven would allow," etc., etc. The list is long—look at your own papers—and the pictures in the ads defy description! Without sex, sadism, horror, and violence, the motion picture industry would succumb to TV, but as long as they can supply the sadistic impulse of America's spiritually unregenerate people with more sex, more horror, more violence, they will survive!

"But, you see, Reverend, we do not go to see all those sexy ones, as you call them. I go, and allow my children to go, only to the good movies!" Good movies? I didn't know there were any! You see, I don't go. Maybe there is a good one now and then; MAYBE

THERE ARE GOOD MOVIES, BUT THERE IS ALSO SOME GOOD FOOD IN A GARBAGE PAIL, BUT I DON'T WANT MY CHILDREN EATING THERE!

With all the excellent pictures produced by Baptista Films, Great Commission Films, Billy Graham Films, Gospel Films, Inc., Family, Cathedral, Concordia, etc., if you see one good Christian film a day, you could never see them all! Why satiate your desire for pictures at the Devil's playhouse? That is crazy, I'm not! What do you think?

Hollywood idols set the pace for the American dress—they have reached the "Plimsoff's line" long ago! These "darlings" set the standards for morals, and the more they are divorced and remarried, the more they get mixed up in dope scandals, etc., the more popular they are. Box office receipts prove it. Marilyn Monroe is a lot more popular today after she divorced DiMaggio and made her plea, "I want someone that will love me and make something of me" or words to that effect!

Hollywood producers are purveyors of filth—the "filth column"! And they harp on the sensitive emotions of America's teenagers for their filthy lucre! Most of you adults wouldn't allow your children to play with the children of Hollywood stars if they lived near you, but you do worse when you slip them a quarter and snap, "Take in a movie!" and you are rid of them for the afternoon!

Little boys go around "banging" everybody dead, thinking nothing of it, nor their parents, either! But disinterested investigations have proven that more than half of the inmates of reform schools said that movies gave them the desire to carry a gun! One boy said, "Pictures about gangsters helped me to become one!" A sample of five hundred high schoolers, one-third of them said they learned the ways of lovemaking from the pictures. Reform schools, delinquent homes, asylums, prisons, and jails are filled with youngsters who by their own statements prove that it was movies that gave them their start!

But, they say I'm crazy for trying to keep young people from going, and trying to get parents to keep their children at home! And then, there are others, others who think I'm crazy for objecting to an institution that has, in most cases, completely substituted the church. They say I'm crazy because:

I Don't Belong to a Lodge

Lest I be misunderstood, I mean either the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Grange or the hundreds of other secret societies! The Masonic Lodge is the oldest and the parent organization of all others. "But," someone warns, "you had better watch your step! Do you know how strong this group is? They are everywhere; they are in our churches, they are in power at strategic places—judges, officers, courts, jury, etc." Yes, I know, and so did Captain William Morgan, who exposed them and was drowned by the Masons, who were convicted of his murder in the courts of the United States. At that time the Masons lost 45,000 members and 2,000 lodges disbanded because of the widespread knowledge of the incident; they were reduced to only about 5,000 members. Read it in the annals of United States records. Yet 2 million people today are crazy enough not to look into it and continue being Masons! Am I crazy for not belonging to an organization that binds its members to murder anyone who reveals their "secrets"? Don't call me crazy! Look it up! It all happened in 1826, in the Batavia, New York, lodge; they kidnapped him and kept him in Old Fort Niagara, then September 19th they drowned him in the Niagara River!

Hey, listen, young people! Just let me quote a few statements from their oaths; see if you think I'm crazy for "coming apart and being separate." Here is one, "BINDING MYSELF UNDER NO LESS AN OATH THAN THAT OF HAVING MY THROAT CUT ACROSS, MY TONGUE TORN OUT BY ITS ROOTS AND BURIED IN THE ROUGH SANDS OF THE SEA AT LOW WATER MARK, WHERE THE

TIDES EBB AND FLOW TWICE IN 24 HOURS." The secret signs are constant reminders to the initiate of that terrible, bloodcurdling oath.

That is only the first degree! In the second, he is under penalty of "having my left breast torn open, my heart plucked out and given to the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air." The third, or Master's degree, "my body severed in twain, my bowels taken from thence and burned to ashes." Appropriate signs are used constantly to remind them of their obligation, a quick motion across the throat with the hand, across the chest and across the abdomen, first, second and third degree respectively. The Royal Master oath penalty is to be burned alive, the Select Master, his eyes should be torn from their sockets, and so on ad nauseum!

Now, fellows, what I want to know: who is crazy—me for not being one, or they?

What is worse, they seek to induce you fellows into that mess with their Demolay for boys, or Rainbow Lodge for girls, Junior Grange, etc., but I say, SHUN THEM AS THE VERY DEVIL HIMSELF!

Each Mason is sworn to uphold a brother Mason in any difficulty, and that may mean EVEN AGAINST THE LAW OF THE LAND! Who is patriotic—they or the Christian? Which means more to you, Mason—your country or your lodge? You are crazy to swear to any such rubbish as that!

There is a pledge not to "violate the chastity of a Mason's wife, his mother, his sister or daughter, knowing them to be such." Apparently if he doesn't "know them to be such," that is, Mason's relatives, then it would not be forbidden. That phrase "knowing them to be such," puts the lie to all their defensive arguments! They are as crazy as can be!

The religion of the Mason is: "Character determines destiny." Violently opposed to scriptural truth (in spite of the fact that so many rise to defend themselves with, "But it's based on the Bible!"), they teach that to be a Mason is to be saved. Mackay's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry says,

"The Master Mason represents a man saved from the grave of iniquity and raised to a faith of salvation," and to "mutually promote the welfare and happiness of each other, and to the honour and glory of God and the salvation of our own souls."

AND YET MACKAY'S "RITUALIST" SAYS THAT THE PASSAGE FROM I PETER READ IN THE OPENING OF THE MARK MASTER DEGREE CONTAINS "A SLIGHT BUT NECESSARY MODIFICATION." What is that "slight modification"? IT IS TO DELETE THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST!

THE NAME OF CHRIST IS FORBIDDEN IN THE LODGE! Oh, I know I've heard many lodge men say, "That's not so! We use His name in our lodge!" BUT YOU ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO!

Write your superiors and ask them if you are. Over and over again the Masonic writings quoting Scripture leave out the name of Christ when it appears in the text of the Bible. Deliberately,

they leave my Lord and Saviour out of it! Am I crazy to stay out of it? Am I crazy to refrain from going to a place where I can't take my Christ? He said, "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me!" There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

My lodge member friend, YOU are crazy if you think your Lodge will get you into that "grand lodge above!" You are not only crazy; you are completely out of your head if you think God will change His Word because of some apron-clad men! You are "crazy" if you think they have "secrets"! I can buy, or anyone can buy, their "secrets" for 50 cents from the National Christian Association, 850 Madison Ave., Chicago, Illinois, as well as other sources.

Unitarians sanction Freemasonry, because THE RELIGION OF MASONRY IS UNITARIAN! Without Christ! Salvation by works! But, if Christ is not a Mason, if He would not go, were He here, then I'll stick to my Christ, let the lodges be judged by the Scriptures that condemn them as a plot of the Devil to steal men's souls from the truth! Crazy? I think that's using my God-given "noggin" for a good purpose!

If a Mason who calls himself a Christian at the same time, can bow in consent to letting men delete the name of Christ from his repeating of the Scriptures, if a so-called "Christian Mason" can take the bloodcurdling oaths, if a so-called "Christian Mason" can agree to the Bible-denying doctrines of that group, I don't see how he can be a very well taught Christian! The two are mutually incompatible! YOU CAN'T BE A VERY GOOD CHRISTIAN AND AN ACTIVE MASON AT THE SAME TIME.

Crazy? Study into it and you will find that one who KNOWS the doctrines of Masonry and one who KNOWS what the Bible teaches, will not hold to both any more than one can be a "Christian-communist" in doctrine or a "Christian-Mohammedan."

Mackay says, "Its universality is its boast," and Mohammedans, Brahmins and Buddhists are welcomed as much as anyone! Sounds kind of crazy to me!

Yet they say I'm crazy because I do not belong to the lodges!

But, there is yet another reason why people say I'm crazy, and that is because of something I do:

I Believe in Christ as My Saviour

"What! You mean that you follow that old-fashioned idea that there is only one way to be saved? Only one way to Heaven? Oh, no! Don't tell me you are that narrow-minded—that Jesus had to die on a cross, and that His blood had to be shed for you, to wash away your sins? Oh, ho, ho, ho! That's a laugh! Nobody believes that anymore! You're crazy!"

If I'm crazy, it seems funny that the Bible, God's holy Word, says, "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). It is also a "crazy" verse that says, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Jesus was sure narrow-minded and old-

fashioned when He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Paul must have been a bigoted old fool and crazier than I could ever be when he wrote and said, "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:8).

"Well, I suppose so, but don't you see, if you do that, then you can't do this, you can't do that, you can't dance, smoke, see movies, etc., and you will go through life with a long, narrow face, a pious look, and have no good time."

Will I now?

I've never had such a good time as I have since I became a Christian! I'VE NEVER ENJOYED MYSELF LIKE I HAVE

(Continued on page 10)

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How to Come to Jesus

(Continued from page 1)

way as I will explain.

First of all, God knows those who will trust Him, and He has determined ahead of time that the moment you trust Him He will save you. Oh, how eagerly He watches your heart. How He sends the blessed Holy Spirit to move you to repent and turn to Christ!

In this same chapter, verse 44, Jesus said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." You see, we poor frail sinners are so lost in sin, so cold and blind and dead in our sins, that if God just left us alone, we would all go on to Hell. Our consciences would not bother us. We would not fear death. We would not see the danger of delay. We would not want to come to Jesus. So the dear Father in Heaven who wants every sinner to turn from his sin and become His child does draw people to Jesus. And those who heed the wooing of the blessed Holy Spirit, those who do not resist God's call, God gives to Jesus.

Do you have any sense of guilt over your sins? That shows good sense! What a foolish, wicked thing it is to go on with no thought of the future, with no sorrow for your sins, with no concern over your poor lost soul. Do you find, from time to time, that even when you want to do good you fail? Do you break your resolutions?

I know a man who had been drinking for years, and he wanted to be saved. But he feared and feared, "How can I ever get rid of this enslaving habit?" That was the thought in his heart. He had made so many vows and broken them every one! When he had promised his wife to quit, he did not have the will power to do it. He was soon dragged into the clutches of drink again. So when in deep distress of soul he knelt down to pray and call on God, he said, "O God, I don't promise you anything! I promised my wife I would quit drinking and I could not do it. I don't know whether I can quit now. I don't promise you anything, but my friend keeps telling me that you can give people a new heart. If you have a new heart for me, I sure need one!"

And God did give him a new heart, and did help him to turn his back on liquor and the sins that

had enslaved him in the past.

But the thing I am telling you is that this concern, even this consciousness of your weakness, is good proof that God is drawing you to Jesus and giving you to Jesus, and that Jesus wants to save you.

It may be someone reads this who has had deep trouble of heart. Maybe you are like the man who called me at Shamrock, Texas, to come and preach the funeral service of his new-born baby boy. He was a poor man. The baby was brought to the grave in a little pine box covered with muslin, held on the lap of two men in the back seat of a model T Ford car.

We had a simple service at the grave, and when the grave was covered and rounded up and home-grown flowers were put on it by loving neighbors, he turned to me with a sob and said, "He was so big and fine! I can't see why he didn't live! The doctor said he just didn't breath, that's all!"

I told this troubled father as we stood by the grave together that I felt sure God was speaking to his heart and calling him to trust the Saviour and so he could meet the dear little one in Heaven.

"That is just what my wife said this morning!" he said, with a startled face.

I put my arm around his big, brawny shoulders and suggested that we kneel down there by that new-made grave and that he ask Jesus Christ to come into his heart. And that is exactly what he did. We knelt together and in his tears he asked the Lord Jesus to forgive him and save him. And he went home to tell his sick wife that he would meet his baby in Heaven. You see, God was calling him and bringing him to Jesus. The sorrow, the trouble was just part of God's way to show him his need of the Saviour and to bring him to Jesus. And so he came!

Well, then it is clear that if you want to come to Christ, God put that desire in your heart. If you feel a guilt over your sins, God put that consciousness of your need and your guilt in your heart to bring you to Jesus. If the Holy Spirit is dealing with you, striving with you, warning and convicting you, that is simply God drawing you toward Jesus Christ. He has

offered you to Jesus Christ, and if you will come, you will not be rejected!

Now let us see the rest of the verse and the wonderful thing it means.

II. "Him That Cometh to Me I Will in No Wise Cast Out"

What does it mean to come to Christ? Well, there are different ways of saying it in the Bible. Sometimes the Bible says, "Look!" In Isaiah 45:22, God calls out to sinners everywhere, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all ye ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else." God simply means that the heart should turn to face Him and rely upon Him.

The same thought is given in the wonderful story of the Israelites encamped in the wilderness who were bitten by fiery serpents, as told in Numbers 21:5-9. There we are told that as many people were dying, the others in despair begged Moses to pray. And when Moses prayed, God told him to make a snake out of brass and put it on a pole. And everyone who would simply look to that brass snake on a pole in the midst of the camp would immediately, that very instant, be cured of the snake bite! What a simple and wonderful way to be saved from the fatal poison of the serpent! And Jesus told Nicodemus in the third chapter of John, "...As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." So you see, another word for coming to Jesus is to "look." If in your heart you come, He will not turn you down. So turn to look at Him now and look to Him now.

Another word for coming to Jesus is to "call upon Him" or pray. Romans 10:13 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Of course that need not be audible prayer. For how then could a deaf and dumb man call? No, it is calling upon God in the heart which He means here. And that is just another way of saying "Come." One who, in his heart, asks for mercy, asks for forgiveness, has come to Jesus already! In the same chapter, Jesus has been reminding the people that He is the true bread from Heaven. "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never

thirst" (John 6:35). You see, the preceding day Jesus had fed 5,000 men besides women and children with five little barley biscuits and two small fishes. And the people were amazed at that. But Jesus reminded them that He was the true bread from Heaven. And just as hungry people could take the bread and fish, so any sinner tired of his sin and wanting the bread of life could take Jesus, and have everlasting life at once. And here Jesus said that coming is believing. You see, in the same chapter, "Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" (John 6:29). To believe on Christ, that is, to depend

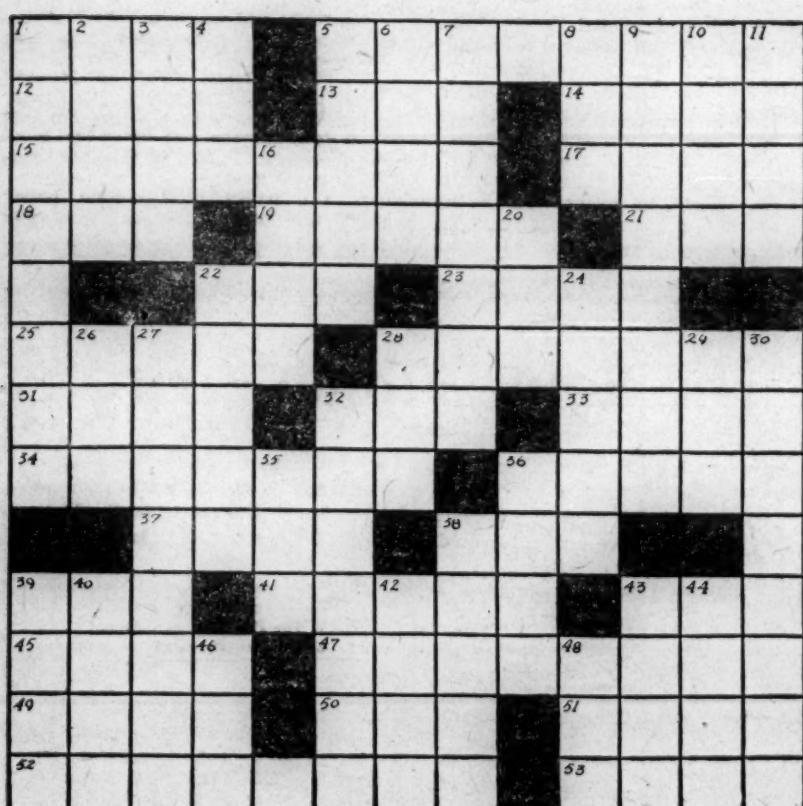
upon Him, to rely upon Him, to trust Him in the heart—that is coming to Jesus. And when you come, He never turns you down!

Of course one who comes to Jesus turns his back on some other things. If you are in Chicago, you cannot go to New York without turning your back on Chicago. And if you come to Jesus, of course you turn away from sin. Repentance and faith go together, and both are part of this same little word, "come." One who comes to Jesus of course comes to get forgiveness, comes to get help about his sins, comes for a new heart and a new life. And always he can get it, for Jesus

(Continued on page 11)

532 Winners in One Week!

By Aunt Jessie



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

offered you to Jesus Christ, and if you will come, you will not be rejected!

Now let us see the rest of the verse and the wonderful thing it means.

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They Say I Am Crazy!

(Continued from page 9)

SINCE I BECAME A CHRISTIAN AND GAVE MY HEART TO HIM! I'VE NEVER KNOWN REAL JOY UNTIL I GOT SAVED AND FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT! All this and Heaven, too!

Yet, they call me crazy! The Bible says that we are a "peculiar people"! And I guess sometimes we sure look that way to others! I have often wondered what an unbeliever thinks when he happens into a spirited prayer meeting! Everybody kneeling or bowing in prayer.

"What are they doing? Worshiping the chairs?"

"How do they get anything out of that?"

But, we are "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith."

In an evangelistic service they see a "crazy" preacher waving his arms and lifting his voice in evident concern.

"Boy, that guy is completely off his nut!"

"The preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

Or at a Bible study group, silent men and women listen to a soft-spoken, deliberate man in conversational tones just talking out of the Bible, and they say, "Well, what do you know! Some party! THEY'RE CRAZY, THE

WHOLE BUNCH OF THEM!"

But, "I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST: FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVES ETH."

Say, fellows and girls, do you think we are so crazy? Just between you and me, now, it's good sense to obey God! It is using your head for something besides a hatrack to take Christ as your Saviour and as your Guide through life, and don't listen to the Devil's crowd who tempt you with, "Oh, come on! Don't be such a sissy! Live it up!"

"Come on, just one drink. Here, have a smoke, everybody is doing it!"

DON'T BE CRAZY, YOUNG PEOPLE!

In evangelistic work I had a lot of old people come to me, pressing their hands in mine, "Oh, if I had only accepted Christ sooner," but I've never heard one yet say, "I wish I had never become a Christian."

How about you? Come on along with us; join God's people; make pals and friends with them; read His Word; go all the way with Him! You've never seen a happier bunch than a group of Christian young people, and you can be one of them!

—THE END—

Puzzle Number 11

CLEWS ACROSS

- 1 Son of Ham. (Gen. 10:6)
- 2 Precious stone — according to the Targum, the Tables of Law were made of it
- 3 Edomites — people who lived east and south of the Dead Sea
- 4 A skeleton (— M —)
- 5 The man who stabbed Eglon, King of the Moabites. (Judg. 3:15)
- 6 A tower on the wall of Jerusalem. (Neh. 3:1)
- 7 His Royal Highness (Abb.)
- 8 Rebekah's brother
- 9 A sort of humor
- 10 Son of Jether, who was Gideon's son. (I Chron. 7:38)
- 11 The only son of Eliezer, son of Moses. (I Chron. 23:17)
- 12 Fish, used for food
- 13 International Code Use (naval signal—abb.)
- 14 Gentleness—a characteristic of Moses
- 15 One of David's thirty mighty men. (II Sam. 23:28)
- 16 Boy
- 17 White-tailed Sea Eagle
- 18 Large pink shell of the West Indies
- 19 The disciple whom Jesus loved
- 20 Same as Hosea
- 21 Medieval (Abb.)
- 22 Latitude (Abb.)
- 23 A great lake
- 24 The place where Moses made the bitter water sweet, for the Israelites. (Ex. 15:23)
- 25 Joseph's second son. (Gen. 41:52)
- 26 A mountain in the southern part of Arabia
- 27 Came together
- 28 Formerly
- 29 One of the cities, given by lot, to the Levites. (Josh. 21:35)
- 30 Follow
- 31 A son of Zibeon. (Gen. 36:24)
- 32 Weep. (Ex. 14:15)
- 33 A man whose name signifies "One persecuted." He was a God fearing man
- 34 God of the Philistines
- 35 The son of Zephaniah, who prophesied, should wear a crown in the Temple of the Lord. (Zech. 6:14)
- 36 A suffix, signifying "condition"
- 37 An apostle from Christianity
- 38 This blessing, we are told in Genesis, shall not fail
- 39 Rainbow
- 40 Precious metals
- 41 Prophet — formerly, cupbearer to Artaxerxes
- 42 Where lions dwelt

CLEWS DOWN

- 1 One of the five books of the Bible which have only one chapter each
- 2 A place of torment
- 3 Rezia's father, of the House of Asher
- 4 19th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 5 A godly person
- 6 River of Italy, which flows from the Apennines to the

Mediterranean Sea

- 7 Commandment
- 8 Possesses
- 9 Edomites — people who lived east and south of the Dead Sea
- 10 A skeleton (— M —)
- 11 The man who stabbed Eglon, King of the Moabites. (Judg. 3:15)
- 12 A tower on the wall of Jerusalem. (Neh. 3:1)
- 13 His Royal Highness (Abb.)
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- 42 Where lions dwelt

HAMAN	DAGON
MER	EBER
LOT	LEMUR
DAVID	HLASA
EMIT	AHI
SAMARIA	EIRE
EDGER	S
BEND	ABRAHAM
ADAM	ORB
BEL	GAZA
EN	PAGAN
SANG	JOB
BEREA	ALUMA
	HOSEA

Answers to Puzzle Number 9:

IX

H	A	M	A	N	D	G	O	N	
M	E	R	F	E	B	E	R	T	
E	L	O	T	L	E	M	U	R	
D	A	V	I	D	H	A	S	A	
A	M	I	T	A	H	I	O	B	
S	A	M	A	R	I	A	E	R	
M	A	R	A						

How to Come to Jesus

(Continued from page 10)

never casts him out, as He promised plainly.

I looked into the sad eyes of a woman who had fallen into sin. She did not know whether she was saved or not. I read John 6:37 to her and she read it for herself. "Did you come to Jesus?" I asked.

"I do not know. I wanted to come. I tried to come. But I do not know whether I came aright or not," she said.

"Oh, but if you wanted to come, that is what He means. It is the 'want to' that is real coming to Jesus! It is not walking down an aisle. It is not joining a church. It is a simple heart decision that says, 'I want to be saved. I want Jesus to forgive me. I want to have a new heart. I want Jesus to take me now and make me God's child. This moment I decide it. I won't delay for anything, and I won't turn Him down any more.' Those who really wanted to come and chose to come have already come in their hearts." So I said

to her and so I say to you. Do you fear you couldn't come aright? Well, if you come at all, that is all Jesus asked. He didn't say, "If you come with a sober face." He didn't say, "If you come with tears." He didn't say, "If you make big promises." He didn't say "If you come saying 'Hallelujah!' and with joy running over." Jesus simply said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." Never mind the fire works and never mind the emotions. If in your poor, tired, sinnering heart you want to come to Jesus, then I beg you just simply come today, right now, this moment!

You remember that Joshua challenged Israel, "...choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15). You see, coming is choosing. If in your heart you take Jesus, then He is yours. If you choose Him, that heart-choice settles the matter and Jesus receives you.

It was said about some people, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11). It was the sad complaint of Jesus to some poor sinners, "...ye will not come to me that ye might have life" (John 5:20). But one who will come, can come. Yea, if he chooses to come, decides to come, then he does come.

And Jesus promised "...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." That means there are no delays. Jesus has no quibbles.

I knew of a firm that advertised sewing machines on television for \$29.95. But when people called and the salesmen came to see them, the company was always out of that cheaper model and wanted to sell an expensive model that cost two and a half times as much! Well, crooked men may do that way about their promises, but not the Lord Jesus! If Jesus said come, then He will receive you. He has promised and you may rely upon it.

"But how will I know that He has received me?" someone asks. Why, poor foolish man or woman, can you not believe what Jesus said? Do you want any further evidence than the solemn promise of the Son of God? You who will take the word of men about promises to pay, you who honor the signature of men on a check, you who believe a printed guarantee of a company, are you unwilling to risk the plain promise of the Son of God Himself, written down here in the Bible? You see, you do not need any further evidence. Oh, there will be plenty of things to encourage your heart and to give further assurance later, but the thing to do is simply to believe what Jesus said and

The Power of Prayer

(Continued from page 1)

a Christian is asking, "that I make such poor progress in my Christian life? Why do I have so little victory over sin? Why do I win so few souls to Christ? Why do I grow so slowly into the likeness of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?" And God answers in the words of our text—"Neglect of prayer. You have not, because you ask not."

"Why is it," both ministers and churches are asking, "that the church of Jesus Christ is making such slow progress in the world today? Why does it make so little headway against sin, against unbelief, against error in all its forms? Why does it have so little victory over the world, the flesh, and the Devil? Why is the average church member living on such a low plane of Christian living? Why does the Lord Jesus Christ get so little honor from the state of the church today?" And, again, God replies: "Neglect of prayer. You have not, because you ask not."

"Why is it," many a minister is asking, "that I see so little fruit from my ministry? Why are there so few conversions? Why does my church grow so slowly? Why are the members of my church so little helped by my ministry, and

risk everything upon His honor. He who loved you so much, He who never lied, He who died to save sinners, He who has been running you down so long and pleading with you to be saved—surely, surely He will not reject you, He will not deny you, He will not fail you now when you come!

No, and He will not turn you out later. This is no chameleon that you face when you come to Jesus. It is the unchanging, eternal Son of God, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Heb. 13:8). He loves you now, He will love you tomorrow. He gives you life today, but He gives everlasting life for tomorrow and all the tomorrows. He gives you life, but not only that. He gives you ETERNAL life. He will not turn you down immediately when you come, but He said, "I will in no wise cast out." Thank God, when you turn your case over to Jesus it is in good hands and the matter is permanently taken over by the lawyer who never lost a case, the Saviour who never rejected a penitent sinner, and by the good—God whose eternal Word is at stake! Oh, wonderful salvation for today and salvation for eternity. So one has everlasting life when he comes to Jesus.

Now you understand this blessed promise, I hope. Only one thing remains. Will you take Jesus Christ up on His promise? God put it in your heart to read this sermon. The Holy Spirit now reminds you of your sin. You know that one day you will die. Your conscience tells you that you ought to be saved. All these things are the call of God. This sermon itself is part of God's blessed plan to bring you to Jesus. And that proves that Jesus is ready to save you. Now the only thing left is to come, honestly and immediately, with all your heart, to Jesus Christ. Will you do it? Will you trust Him, depend upon Him, surrender to Him today? The moment your heart comes to Jesus He gives you everlasting life.

If you will come, simply, honestly, the best you know, I beg you to sign the following decision form and have this matter of your soul's salvation settled once and forever. Will you do it? Are you honestly tired of sin? Are you willing for God to change your heart and help you to do right? Do you really want to come to Jesus? Then say yes in your heart and sign the following statement. Then copy it in a letter and mail it to me today. How glad I will be!

Evangelist John R. Rice
Editor, THE SWORD OF THE LORD
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read your little sermon on that great text of John 6:37 about coming to Jesus. God is calling in my heart. I know that I am a sinner. I want Jesus Christ to forgive me. Here and now I come, the best I know how. I will not depend on my feelings, but I will depend upon the plain promise of Jesus. Today, this moment, I give Him my heart and trust Him to give me everlasting life as He promised. I will set out to live for Him beginning today. I will claim Him openly as my Saviour. Please write me a letter of encouragement and send some literature to help me live right.

Signed _____
Address _____

ly with steadfast determination. "They gave themselves to prayer," as the same Greek word is translated in Acts 6:4. Now turn to the last chapter from which I quoted, the sixth chapter, verse four, and you will get the rest of your answer. "We will give ourselves continually to prayer." That is a picture of the apostolic ministry, it was a praying ministry, and a ministry that "gave themselves continually to prayer," or, to translate that Greek word as it is translated in the former passage (Acts 2:42), "They continued steadfastly in prayer." A PRAYING CHURCH AND A PRAYING MINISTRY! Ah, such a church and such a ministry can achieve anything that ought to be achieved. It will go steadily on beating down all opposition, surmounting every obstacle, conquering every foe, just as much today as it did in the days of the apostles.

There is nothing else in which the church of today and the ministry of today, or, to be more explicit, in which you and I, have departed more notably and more lamentably from apostolic precedent than in this matter of prayer. We do not live in a praying age. A very considerable proportion of the membership of our evangelical churches today do not believe even theoretically in prayer, that is, they do not believe in prayer as bringing anything to pass that would not have come to pass even if they had not prayed. They believe in prayer as having a beneficial "reflex influence," that is, as benefiting the person who prays, a sort of lifting yourself up by your spiritual bootstraps, but as for prayer bringing anything to pass that would not have come to pass if we had not prayed, they do not believe in it and many of them frankly say so, and even some of our "modern ministers" say so.

And with that part of our church membership that does believe in prayer theoretically—and thank God I believe it is still the vast majority in our evangelical churches—even they do not make the use of this mighty instrument that God has put into our hands that one would naturally expect. As I said, we do not live in a praying age. We live in an age of hustle and bustle, of man's efforts and man's determination, of man's confidence in himself and in his own power to achieve things, an age of human organization, and human machinery, and human push, and human scheming, and human achievement; which in the things of God means no real achievement at all. I think it would be perfectly safe to say, that the church of Christ was never in all its history so fully and so skillfully and so thoroughly and so perfectly organized as it is today. Our machinery is wonderful, it is just perfect, but alas it is machinery without power; and when things do not go right, instead of going to the real source of our failure, our neglect to depend upon God and to look to God for power, we look around to see if there is not some new organization we can get up, some new wheel that we can add to our machinery. We have all together too many wheels already. What we need is not so much some new organization, some new wheel, but "the Spirit of the living creature in the wheels" we already possess.

I believe that the Devil stands and looks at the church today and laughs in his sleeve, as he sees how its members depend upon their own scheming and powers of organization and skillfully devised machinery. "Ha, ha," he laughs, "you may have your Y. M. C. A.'s, and Y. W. C. A.'s, and your W. C. T. U.'s, and Y. P. S. C. E.'s, and B. Y. P. U.'s, and your Boy Scouts, and your costly church edifices, and your fifty-thousand-dollar church organs, and your brilliant university-bred preachers, and your high-priced choirs, and your gifted sopranos, and altos, and tenors, and basses, and your wonderful quartets, your immense Men's Bible Classes, yes, and your Bible institutes, and your special evangelistic services, all you please of them, it does not in the least trouble me, if you will only leave out of them the power of the Lord God Almighty sought and obtained by the earnest, persistent, believing prayer that will not take 'no' for an answer." But

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when the Devil sees a man or woman who really believes in prayer, who knows how to pray, and who really does pray, and above all, when he sees a whole church on its face before God in prayer, "he trembles" as much as he ever did, for he knows that his day in that church or community is at an end.

Prayer has as much power today, when men and women are themselves on praying ground and meeting the conditions of prevailing prayer, as it ever has had. God has not changed; and His ear is just as quick to hear the voice of real prayer, and His hand is just as long and strong to save, as it ever was. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save: neither has His ear heavy, that it cannot hear." But "our iniquities" may "have separated between us and our God; and our sins" may "have hid his face from us, that he will not hear." (Isa. 59: 1, 2.) Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's infinite grace and power. All that God is, and all that God has, is at the disposal of prayer. But we must use the key. *Prayer can do anything that God can do, and as God can do anything, prayer is omnipotent.* No one can stand against the man who knows how to pray and who meets all the conditions of prevailing prayer and who really prays. "The Lord God Omnipotent" works for him and works through him.

I. Prayer Will Promote Our Personal Holiness as Nothing Else Except the Study of the Word of God

But what, specifically, will prayer do? We have been dealing in generalities, let us come down to the definite and specific. The Word of God very plainly answers the question.

In the first place, *prayer will promote our personal piety, our individual holiness, our individual growth into the likeness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as almost nothing else, as nothing else but the study of the Word of God; and these two things, prayer and study of the Word of God, always go hand in hand, for there is no true prayer without study of the Word of God, and there is no true study of the Word of God without prayer.*

Other things being equal, your growth and mine into the likeness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will be in exact proportion to the time and to the heart we put into prayer. Please note exactly what I say: "Your growth and mine into the likeness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will be in exact proportion to the time and to the heart we put into prayer." I put it in that way because there are many who put a great deal of time into praying but they put so little heart into their praying that they do very little praying in the long time they spend at it; while there are others who perhaps may not put so much time into praying but who put so much heart into their praying, that they accomplish vastly more by their praying in a short time than the others accomplish by their praying a long time. God Himself has told us in Jeremiah 29:13: "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

We are told in the Word of God in Ephesians 1:3, that God "hath blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." That is to say, that Jesus Christ by His atoning death and by His resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father, has obtained for every believer in Jesus Christ every possible spiritual blessing. There is no spiritual blessing that any believer enjoys that may not be yours. It belongs to you now, Christ purchased it by His atoning death and God has provided it in Him. It is there for you; but it is your part to claim it, to put out your hand and take it, and God's appointed way of claiming blessings, or putting out your hand and appropriating to yourself the blessings that are procured for you by the atoning death of Jesus Christ, is by prayer. Prayer is the hand that takes to ourselves the blessings that God has already provided in His Son.

Go through your Bible and you will find it definitely stated that

every conceivable spiritual blessing is obtained by prayer. For example, it is in answer to prayer, as we learn from Psalm 139:23, 24, that God searches us and knows our hearts, tries us and knows our thoughts, brings to light the sin that there is in us and delivers us from it. It is an answer to prayer, as we learn from Psalm 19:12, 13, that we are cleansed from secret faults and God keeps us back from presumptuous sins. It is an answer to prayer, as we learn from the 14th verse of the same Psalm, that "the words of our mouth and the meditations of our heart are made acceptable in God's sight." It is an answer to prayer, as we learn from the 25th Psalm, verses 4 and 5, that God shows us His ways and teaches us His path, and guides us in His truth. It is an answer to prayer, as we learn from the prayer our Lord Himself taught us, that we are kept from temptation and delivered from the power of the wicked one. (Matt. 6:13, R. V.) It is in answer to prayer, as we learn from Luke 11:13, that God gives us His Holy Spirit, and so we might go on through the whole catalogue of spiritual blessings and we would find that every one is obtained by asking for it. Indeed, our Lord Himself has said in Matthew 7:11: "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him."

One of the most instructive and suggestive passages in the entire Bible as showing the mighty power of prayer to transform us into the likeness of our Lord Jesus Himself, is found in II Corinthians 3:18: "But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror (The English Revision reads better 'reflecting as a mirror') the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit." The thought is this, that the Lord is the Sun, you and I are mirrors, and just as a mischievous boy on a bright sunshiny day will catch the rays of the sun in a piece of broken looking-glass and reflect them into your eyes and mine with almost blinding power, so we as mirrors, when we commune with God, catch the rays of His moral glory and reflect them out upon the world "from glory to glory," that is, each new time we commune with Him we catch something new of His glory and reflect it out upon the world. You remember the story of Moses, not "folklore," as some would have us believe, but actual history, how he went up into the Mount and tarried alone for forty days with God, gazing upon that ineffable glory, and caught so much of the glory in his own face that when he came down from the Mount, though he himself knew it not, his face so shone that he had to draw a veil over it to hide the blinding glory of it from his fellow Israelites. Even so we, going up into the Mount of prayer, away from the world, alone with God, and remaining long alone with God, catch the rays of His glory so that when we come down to our fellow men not so much our faces shine (though I do believe that sometimes even our faces shine), but our characters, with the glory that we have been beholding, and we reflect out upon the world the moral glory of God from "glory to glory," each new time of communion with Him catching something new of His glory to reflect out upon the world. Oh, here is the secret of becoming much like God, remaining long alone with God. If you won't stay long with Him, you won't much like Him.

One of the most remarkable men in Scotland's history was John Welch, son-in-law of John Knox, the great Scotch reformer; not so well known as his famous father-in-law but in some respects a far more remarkable man than John Knox himself. Most people have the idea that it was John Knox who prayed: "Give me Scotland or I die." It was not, it was John Welch, his son-in-law. John Welch put it on record before he died, that he counted that day ill-spent that he did not put seven or eight hours into secret prayer; and when John Welch came to die an old Scotchman who had known him from his boyhood said of John Welch, "John Welch was a type of Christ." Of course that was an

inaccurate use of language, but what the old Scotchman meant was, that Jesus Christ had stamped the impress of His character upon John Welch. When had Jesus Christ done it? In those seven or eight hours of daily communion with Him. I do not suppose that God has called many of us, if any of us, to put seven or eight hours a day into prayer, but I am confident God has called most of us, if not everyone of us, to put more time into prayer than we now do. That is one of the great secrets of holiness; indeed, the only way in which we can become really holy and continue to do so.

Some years ago we often sang a hymn, *Take Time to Be Holy.* I wish we sang it more in these days. It takes time to be holy, one cannot be holy in a hurry; and much of the time that it takes to be holy must go into secret prayer. Some people express surprise that professing Christians today are so little like their Lord, but when I stop to think how little time the average Christian today puts into secret prayer the thing that astonishes me is, not that we are so little like the Lord, but that we are as much like the Lord as we are, when we take so little time for secret prayer.

II. Prayer Will Bring the Power of God Into Our Work

But not only will prayer promote as almost nothing else our personal holiness, but *prayer will also bring the power of God into our work.* We read in Isaiah 40:31: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk [plod right along day after day, which is far harder than running or flying], and not faint."

It is the privilege of every child of God to have the power of God in their service. And the verse just quoted tells us how to obtain it, and that is by *'waiting upon the Lord.'* Sometimes you will hear people stand up in meeting, not so frequently perhaps in these days as in former days, and say: "I am trying to serve God in my poor, weak way." Well, if you are trying to serve God in your poor, weak way, quit it: your duty is to serve God in His strong, triumphant way. But you say I have no natural ability; then get supernatural ability. The religion of Jesus Christ is a supernatural religion from start to finish, and we should live our lives in supernatural power, the power of God through Jesus Christ, and we should perform our service with supernatural power, the power of God ministered by the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ. You say, "I have no natural gifts." Then get supernatural gifts. The Holy Spirit is promised to every believer in order that he may obtain the supernatural gifts which qualify him for the particular service to which God calls him. "He" [the Holy Spirit], divideth to each one [that is, to each and every believer] severally even as he will" (I Cor. 12:11). It is ours to have the power of God, if we will only seek it by prayer, in any and every line of service to which God calls us.

Are you a mother or a father? Do you wish power from God to bring your own children up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord?" God commands you to do it, and especially commands the father to do it. God says in Ephesians 6:4: "Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Now God never commands the impossible, and as He commands us fathers, and the mothers also, to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord it is possible for us to do it. If any one of your children is not saved, the first blame lies at your own door. Paul said to the jailer in Philippi: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).

Yes; it is the solemn duty of every father and mother to have every one of their children saved. But we can never accomplish it unless we are much in prayer to God for power to do it. In my first pastorate I had as a member of my

church a most excellent Christian woman, but she had a little boy of six who was one of the most incorrigible youngsters I ever knew in my life. He was the terror of the community. The most difficult boy, I think, I ever knew. One Sunday at the close of the morning service his mother came to me and said:

"You know —" (calling her boy by his first name).

"Yes," I replied, "I know him." Everybody in town knew him. Then she said,

"You know he is not a very good boy."

"Yes," I replied, "I know he is not a very good boy." Indeed, that was a decidedly euphemistic way of putting it; in point of fact he was the terror of the neighborhood. Then this heavy-hearted mother said,

"What shall I do?"

I replied, "Have you ever tried prayer?"

"Why," she said, "of course I pray."

"Oh," I said, "that is not what I mean. Have you ever asked God definitely to regenerate your boy and expected Him to do it?"

"I do not think I have ever been as definite as that."

"Well," I said, "you go right home and be just as definite as that." She went home, she was just as definite as that; and I think it was from that very day, certainly from that week, that boy was a transformed boy and grew up into fine young manhood.

Oh, mothers and fathers, it is your privilege to have every one of your children saved. But it costs something to have them saved. It costs your spending much time alone with God, to be much in prayer, and it costs also your making those sacrifices, and straightening out those things in your life that are wrong, it costs the fulfilling the conditions of prevailing prayer. And if any of you have unsaved children, when you go home today get alone with God and ask God to show you what it is in your own life that is responsible for the present condition of your children, and straighten it out at once and then get alone before God and hold on to Him in earnest prayer for the definite conversion of each one of your children, and do not rest until, by prayer and by your putting forth every effort, you know beyond question that every one of your children is definitely and positively converted and born again.

Are you a Sunday School teacher? Do you wish to see every one of your Sunday School scholars converted? That is primarily what you are a Sunday School teacher for, not merely to teach Bible geography and Bible history, or even Biblical doctrine, but to get the scholars in your class one and all saved. Do you want power from on high to enable you to save them? Ask God for it.

When Mr. Alexander and I were holding meetings in Sydney, Australia, the meetings were held in the Town Hall which seated about five thousand people. But the crowds were so great that some days we had to divide the crowds and have women only in the afternoon, and men only at night. One Sunday afternoon the Sydney town hall was packed with women. When I gave out the invitation

for all who would accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and surrender to Him as their Lord and Master, and begin to confess Him as such before the world, and strive to live from this time on to please Him in every way, from day to day, over on my left a whole row of young women of, I should say, about twenty years of age, arose to their feet, eighteen in all. As I saw them stand side by side I said to myself, "That is someone's Bible class." They afterwards came down forward with the other women who came to make a public confession of their acceptance of Jesus Christ. When the meeting was over a young lady came to me, her face wreathed in smiles, and she said, "That is my Bible class. I have been praying for their conversion and every one of them has accepted Jesus Christ today."

When we were holding meetings in Bristol, England, a prominent manufacturer in Exeter had a Bible class in that city, of twenty-two men. He invited all of them to go to Bristol with him and hear me preach. Twenty-one of them consented to go. At that meeting twenty of them accepted Christ. The twenty-first accepted Christ in the train on the way home, and then they all, on their return, gathered around the remaining one who would not go, and he also accepted Christ. That man was praying for the conversion of the members of his class and was willing to make the sacrifices necessary to get his prayers answered. What a revival we would have here in this city if every Sunday School teacher would go to praying the way they ought for the conversion of every scholar in his or her class!

Are you in more public work, a preacher perhaps, or speaking from the public platform? Do you long for power in that work? Ask for it. Oh, men and women, if we would spend more nights before God on our faces in prayer, there would be more days of power when we faced our congregations!

(From the book, *THE POWER OF PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF POWER*, by R. A. Torrey, \$2.50. Zondervan Publishers. Used by permission.)

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